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Wilmin Town Crier



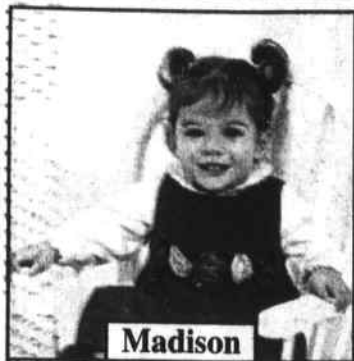
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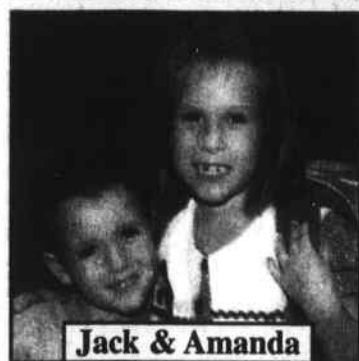
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2003

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32 Pages



Madison



Jack & Amanda



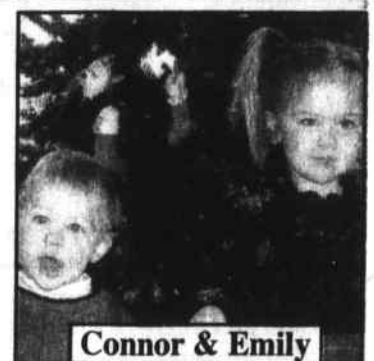
Alexandria



Rachel & Lindsay



Joe



Connor & Emily



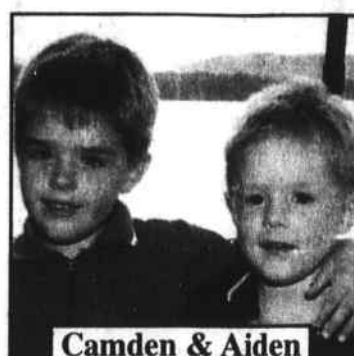
Devin & Cyris



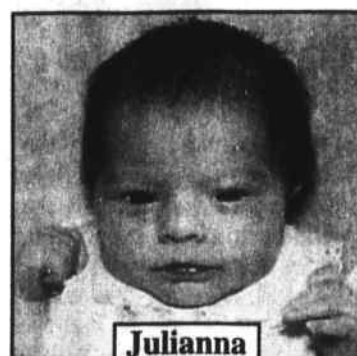
MaryKate



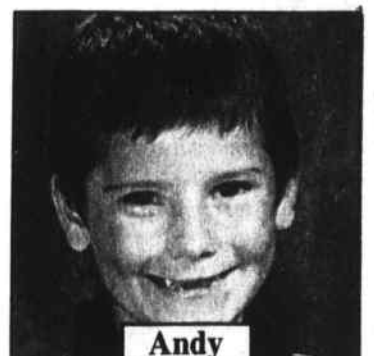
Frankie



Camden & Aiden



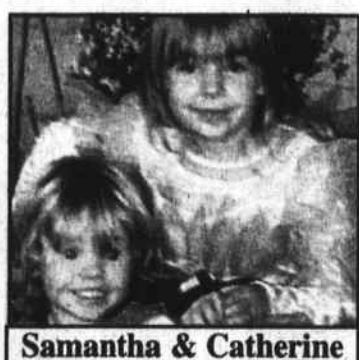
Julianna



Andy



Leigha



Samantha & Catherine



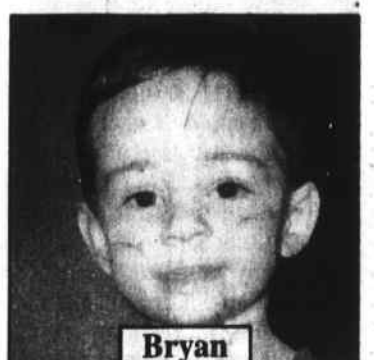
Justin



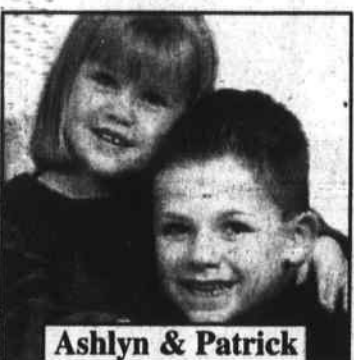
Alexia



Johnathan & Jared



Bryan



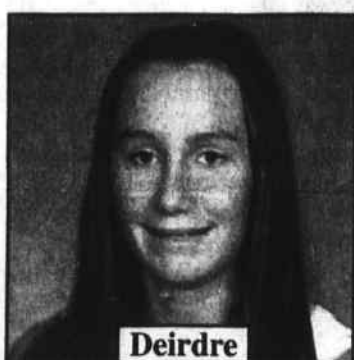
Ashlyn & Patrick



Caroline



T.J. & Larissa



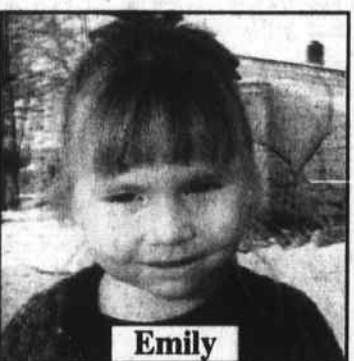
Deirdre



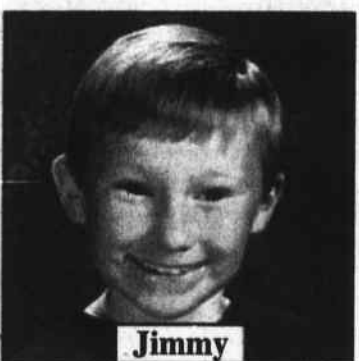
Madison



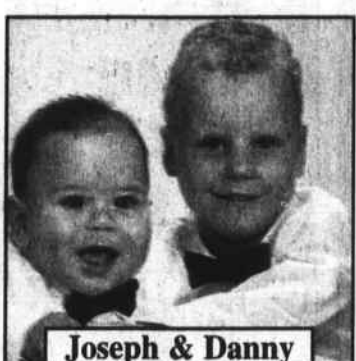
Jack & Josie



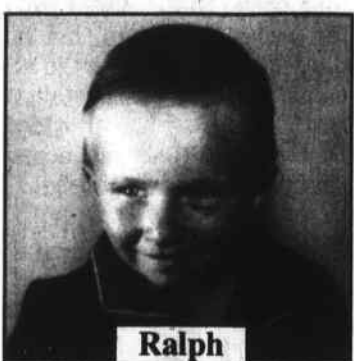
Emily



Jimmy



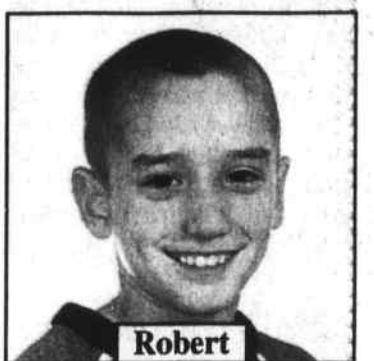
Joseph & Danny



Ralph



C.J. & Lisamarie



Robert



Hannah & Jared



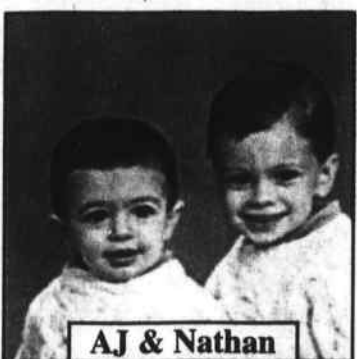
Olivia



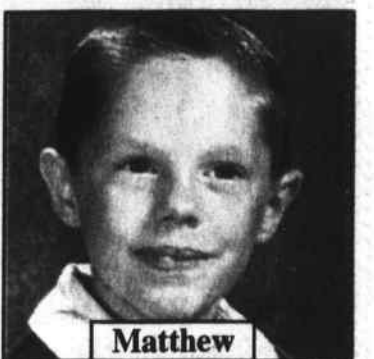
Danny & Katie



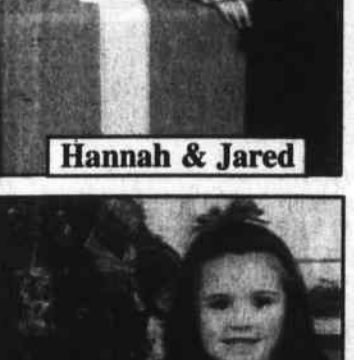
Colleen



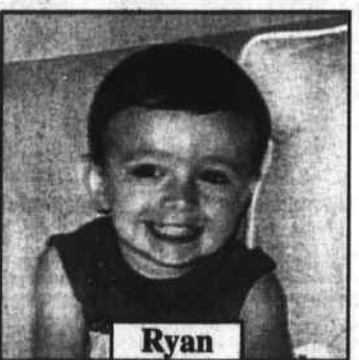
AJ & Nathan



Matthew



Alyssa, Richie, Nicholas



Ryan



Brian & Steven



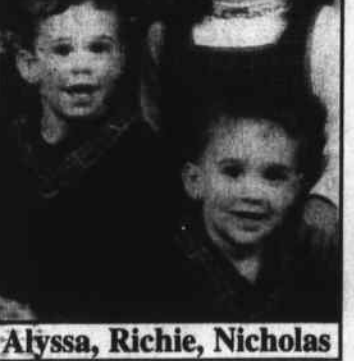
RYANNE



Briana & Felicia



Shamus



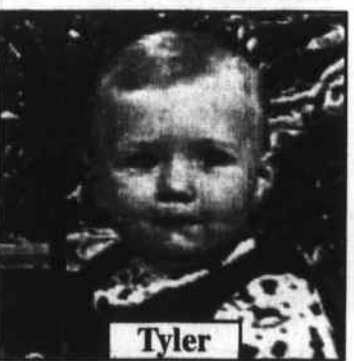
Jessica, Kassie, Alyssa, Jean, Kerri



Marissa



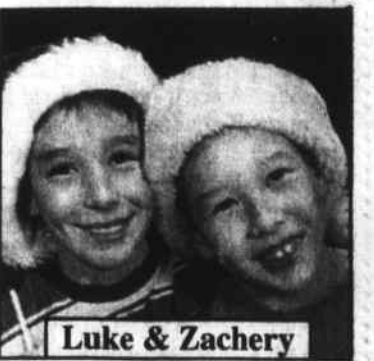
Brendan & Shauna



Tyler



Fallon



Luke & Zachery



Joey, Kayla, Tara



Derek & Drew



Patrick





SANTA'S SINGERS. Kindergarteners Brittany Fletcher, Heather Doyle and Megan Lavino give the song "Santa's Sleigh Ride" their all during the holiday concert that was recently thrown at the Dewing School in Tewksbury. (Denise Blair photo)

Town Counsel strikes new deal

Re-negotiation comes 5 months after appointment

By **STEPHEN BJORK**

WILMINGTON - Town Counsel Paul DeRensis has successfully negotiated a change in the method by which Wilmington compensates his firm for legal services.

During a meeting on Monday, December 22, the Board of Selectmen voted 4 to 1 to accept a revised contract agreement that had been presented by DeRensis. Selectman Robert Palmer was the lone dissenter.

This new agreement, which was voted to be retroactive to December 1, 2003, includes a lower retainer fee, but bills hourly for litigation at a rate of \$160 per hour. That hourly rate will change to \$165 in January of 2004 and does not specify a cap in any way.

Selectmen Chairman Michael McCoy began Monday night's proceedings by noting that he and his colleagues had not yet taken a formal vote in executive session relative to non-union negotiations. He stated that past chairmen and boards of selectmen have taken formal votes in executive session and went directly to public sessions to ratify them.

On Monday night, DeRensis, of the firm of Deutsch, Williams, Brooks, DeRensis & Holland, P.C. (DWBDH), justified his desire to alter his current agreement with the Town of Wilmington. He explained that the new agreement is identical to those used by the other towns for which he is currently town counsel. He did, however, note that Wilmington compen-

sates its town counsel differently than other communities.

"That methodology is not working for us," DeRensis stated.

DeRensis told the board that Wilmington has serious legal issues above and beyond what would normally be expected for a town of its size.

"We are covering upwards of 30 separate litigations and special projects, whereas in June we were working under the assumption that the town had a couple of lawsuits and problems, all of which were nothing to worry about," DeRensis said.

As an example, DeRensis cited the town's legal issues of consequences that surround the discovery of NDMA, a known carcinogen, in the community's water supply. He said such a case calls for a new and different level of legal involvement with the Olin Chemical Company, which owns the Eames Street property from which much of the town's contamination stems.

As a second example, DeRensis mentioned that he is now aware of serious legal issues that concern the town's possible involvement with Maple Meadow Landfill. He stated that his firm had not anticipated such a situation when he accepted the position of Town Counsel earlier this year.

According to DeRensis, his firm has spent the bulk of its time re-examining and re-doing work that was done prior to his appointment, so that the town's legal standing could be brought up to his firm's standards.

DeRensis categorized the atmosphere surrounding such efforts as "tense." He referred to the controversy that enveloped the board's decision to oust his predecessor, former Town Counsel Michael Newhouse, this past summer.

"We know we were not particularly welcomed as Town Counsel and we have encountered extensive and protracted resistance in the town," said DeRensis. "We have repeatedly said that we are not to blame for the departure of former Town Counsel, but we have paid a very steep price for that history."

DeRensis was accompanied at the meeting by several of his firm's attorneys who spoke of their experiences in dealing with Wilmington as a client.

Attorney Bill Proia, who specializes in real estate issues, spoke about a paper street that Wilmington had voted at Town Meeting to acquire as a public way. He explained that it takes roughly 120 days to acquire rights from abutters and complete the process, but that such work had never been done by Newhouse.

Newhouse, who attended the meeting, later replied to Proia's allegations. He defended town counsel on the tight time frame that resulted from the rushed transition, but he did not accept blame for the situation. Instead, he maintained that his firm provided DeRensis with all the necessary paperwork in a timely

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Board of Health expands to five members

By **SHAWN P. SULLIVAN**

TEWKSBURY - For the Tewksbury Board of Health, more is merrier.

Governor Mitt Romney has signed into law legislation that expands the number of members on the Board of Health from three to five. Representative James Miceli, who is the Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, announced the measure's passage last week.

"I am glad I was able to move this bill through the legislature so quickly," Miceli said.

Earlier this year, the Board of Health sponsored a warrant article during the Annual Town Meeting that sought to petition

the state legislature to amend Tewksbury's Special Act Charter to increase the number of its members. The article passed.

"Representative Miceli filed the bill, as requested by the town, and he kept a watchful eye to ensure it would be approved by the General Court and signed by Governor Romney," says Tewksbury Town Clerk Elizabeth Carey.

Miceli was joined in his efforts by Senator Susan Tucker and State Representative Barry Finegold.

According to Carey, hopes were high that the legislation would pass into law in a time sufficient to allow potential candidates to step forward and submit nomination papers for the two new seats for the upcoming 2004 Annual Town Election.

The passage of the legislation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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It's Your Money by Joyce Brisbois



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Beware the phrase "to my children in equal shares." Should one or more child predecease the parent, his or her share is split between the surviving children. Better: "per stirpes," which will pass that child's share to his or her offspring.

Even if you've signed a prenuptial agreement, it's wise to add a postnuptial agreement regarding qualified retirement plans. Because those designations are subject to a spousal—not pre-nuptial—waiver. Easier: roll over the retirement-plan assets to an IRA, easier to control.

But don't name an estate the beneficiary of an IRA, or taxes will be due too quickly. Look into removing insurance from your estate.

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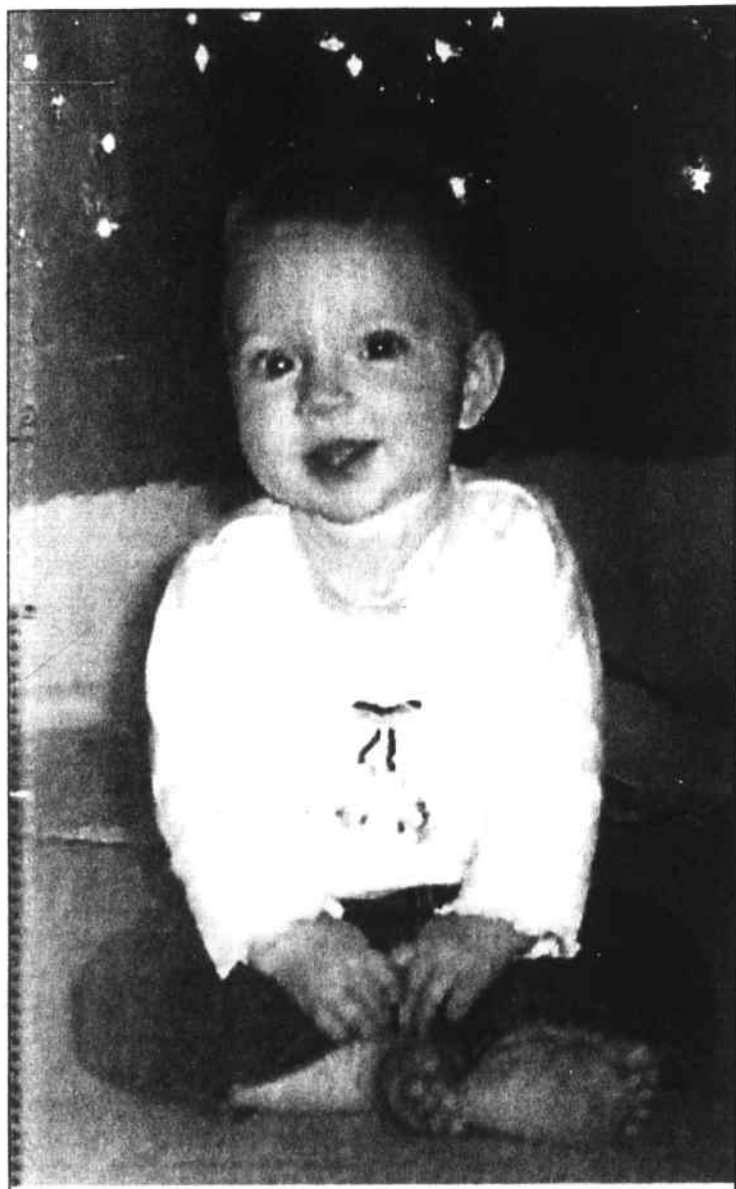
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From the Editor's Desk

By Shawn P. Sullivan

Happy Holidays, from little Maddie Sullivan



MADLINE AVONLEA SULLIVAN

Kids are the Key

This year has been a big one for my wife Valerie and me. Our first child, Madeline, was born on April 30.

It seems like just yesterday that Maddie was an eight-pound miracle, swaddled in a pint-sized blanket. Now she's crawling and standing and laughing and picking things up and petting our dog and chewing on the ends of our coffee table. (And to think we just curbed our dog from eating the furniture.)

Kids make the holiday season. Everybody knows that, but for a new parent, such a given feels like a revelation.

It is, of course, not a revelation. It was, after all, quite some time ago that a certain child was born and started this whole Christmas deal.

So, in that spirit, we at the Town Crier would like to publish in this column a letter we received earlier this week from a nine-year-old youngster in Wilmington named Kerry Murphy. The letter is written to Santa Claus, of course, and not the editor, but I'd like to think I have some sway with Old Saint Nick, so it is with pleasure and enthusiasm that it appears, verbatim, below:

Dear Santa:

How are you, Mrs. Claus, the Elves, the Reindeer, and the snow? Ha ha ha! I thought it would be appropriate because it's so cold. I'm just listing a few things if you could! PS I was just wondering if I could have a bell from the sleigh.

- 1) a bike helmet
- 2) cds like (Baby bash or Mariah Carey's Christmas
- 3) a cd holder
- 4) gogo my walking pup
- 5) Brat winter wonderland close or prom close or New Years celebration
- 6) A brat doll (daine) or brats fm limo
- 7) Light bright cube
- 8) easy bake real meal oven or cotton candy maker
- 9) Red Sox, celtics, bruins, or Patriots jersey's
- 10) watch (sport, spongebob, bluestar)
- 11) Casio lighted median size so I can put my finger on it

Key board

- 12) A movie (Elf, School of Rock)
- 13) Clickets (stars please)
- 14) poster (Mia Hamm or Lebron James)

15) But most of all I want you to make sure that you take care of my family and the people who serve our country and give them a merry merry Christmas and they get home for it. You to and your reindeer, elves, and Mrs. Claus too.

16) sorry I forgot one more thing a book called A little House Christmas.

Ho Ho Ho

Merry Christmas

Kerry Murphy

I like Number 15, don't you? Hopefully, such a wish is on the list of kids of all ages.

Thanks for the letter, Kerry. I happen to know that Santa reads the Town Crier, so you've done yourself a favor by sending your wish list our way. Here's to hoping that you wake up with that walking pup underneath your tree.

We at the Town Crier hope that this week's edition finds all of you readers in the best health and spirits. We wish you the happiest of holidays and the most prosperous of new years. May 2004 be your finest yet.

Betsy's Best Bets

with Betsy Woods McGuire

Che Bella Vita

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet, the words repeat, of peace on earth, good will to men. (Longfellow)

To me Christmas is about tradition. Sitting in North Square, in the front corner of my favorite North End restaurant, the mind wanders. The space is small and intimate and European. My window seat is inches away from all the busy visitors and locals passing by on the crowded sidewalk between curb and canopy. Looking out across the tiny cobblestone park, Sacred Heart Italian Catholic Church sits solidly, in remembrance, where a lifetime ago, my father was baptized.

So, during this joyous and holy time of the year I'm drawn back to the North End to stop and think and to shop, to socialize, to celebrate. Yes, in late summer there are big showy festivals every weekend with feasts and fun and fanfare but the true character of the North End is deep in the spirit of Christmas.

The air is filled with the smell of spices, sauce and sausages. Brick ovens and bread baking will capture and rapture. An

espresso or cappuccino on a cold December day? Take a break, the shopping can wait, for God's sake. Enjoy the dream, Italy is so near, it's here in the mind, the mood, the faces and places.

If you don't have a shopping cart (your own personal one), then now is the time to buy one. The hardware store right on Salem Street has three sizes. It is absolutely impossible to walk through the North End without buying food. My cart is always filled, packed tight by the time I head for home. Plus, I carry a big canvas bag for the overflow or lighter things, like bread.

It's easy to explore the North End. Take your time, saunter, stroll, investigate, ask around, look around. Most of the shops, stores and restaurants are compressed into the three main streets - Salem, Hanover and North. But don't overlook those intriguing, narrow, winding side streets, some only one car wide, that connect and enclose this old world enclave.

There's a line describing the North End that I love. It goes like this: You don't need a refrigerator, everything you need is right outside your door. And, oh how true that is!

Fish markets and butcher shops no bigger than a walk-in closet, where everything is carved to order, are tucked in and along the way. Baskets of fruit and vegetables sitting on the sidewalk against the basement windows of root-cellar produce stores will pull your eye down and inside where fresh figs, dates, chestnuts and barrels of hot pickled peppers mingle with mushrooms, cherry tomatoes, romaine and sweet pears and tangerines. Galley size bakeries and delicatessens will slice your bread, cut your cheese, fill your needs, package and weigh your order with ease.

Green olives, gray, red, and ripe, mozzarella, curds, and whey to make your own some day. We did. Garlic and red pepper rista hanging over head, the intoxicating aroma of

pure ground coffee floats on the air, whenever you crisscross and weave your way through the day.

Roasted salted cashews, peanuts and almonds sit beside brittle and nougat, chocolates and fudge. Look for beautiful blue bottles of grappa and wine or a frosty lemoncello to toast your good fortune and mine.

Food is the blood of the North End. But remember, this busy, lively center of merchants and markets is a close-knit neighborhood first. Throughout the year, but especially at Christmas, the aura of good cheer is everywhere. Family and friends linked together by love and language and custom far and near share their holiday tradition with pride and passion so dear.

Christmas mass at St. Leonard's, Sacred Heart or St. Stephens - light a candle, give a donation, say a prayer for your tears, may the spirit of the North End stay with you all year.

Letters to the Editor

Children of gravely wounded soldier need assistance

EDITOR'S NOTE. The following letter was submitted to President Bush by a Maine resident whose former husband is a Wilmington native who was wounded while on duty as a soldier in Iraq. The writer sent her letter on behalf of her three children, whom she hopes can be assisted in their efforts to visit their father. She submitted it to The Town Crier, as well, in the hopes that readers may be inspired to lend a hand.

Dear President Bush:

My name is Kimberly Jackson and I am writing to you on behalf of my 3 children, Elizabeth (19), Stephanie (16) and Alexander (14). Their father, my ex-husband, is in the Army and has been serving in Iraq since last January. On Friday I received a phone call from his commander, LT. Col. Hugh Van Roosen, 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, NY. He informed me that SFC William Jackson, my kids' Dad, was on convoy when his vehicle

was the target of an improvised explosive device. One soldier was killed and 2 wounded. William is currently in a hospital in Germany and is scheduled to be transferred to Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D.C. on Christmas Eve. He is suffering from multiple injuries including a bruised heart, collapsed left lung, fractured ribs, jaw and spine, a ruptured spleen (which has been removed) and now has pneumonia. Due to his heart being bruised and the amount of pain he would be in, the doctors have kept him very heavily sedated and on a ventilator, so we have been unable to talk to William thus far.

The reason I am writing to you is because through numerous phone calls, e-mails and research via the internet, I have been unable to find any resources or organizations that will aid me in getting my children to Washington to see their father. I am still waiting to hear back from the Red Cross, but from what I was told by

Military Family Support in Portland, the Red Cross won't help me without involvement from William's new wife. She is currently in Germany with William and I am unable to reach her at this time. Our relationship is such that I feel she would not be willing to "step up to the plate," so to speak.

I have tried e-mailing the American Legion and VFW asking for help and have yet to get a reply. I am running into road blocks at every turn and I do not know where to go from here. I refuse to believe that there is no help out there for the children of injured American soldiers.

Mr. President, my children haven't seen their father in about 18 months. They can see, hear and touch me, their Mom, and know that I am healthy both in mind and body. Their minds can only wonder about their father's well being. My oldest daughter, Elizabeth, tells me about the pictures she has in her mind of her father laying in a lonely hospital bed, staring

at the ceiling and wondering what's going on and what will happen to him. She imagines him with tubes and wires in his body and gaping wounds and bloody bandages, like you see in the old war movies. I try to explain that it is not like that but until they can see their father for themselves, I can only imagine what horrible images might be in their thoughts and dreams.

Please Sir, if you know of any organizations or if the government has any kind of fund that could help my kids get to Washington D.C., please let me know or put me in touch with someone.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Jackson
162 Holmes Rd
Scarborough, ME
H) 207-885-5306
W) 207-856-2696
Kimmyzme2@aol.com

Town Nurse's response to flu threat appreciated

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to read the article from our Wilmington town nurse in last week's Crier. It was not only informative, but was nice to hear a public official present an issue that has been talked about with candor and clarity.

Personally, I feel that the media has been inspiring unnecessary angst about the whole flu threat and the resulting near panic about the availability of flu shots.

Thanks to Nurse Fitzgerald, and to the town for having such a dedicated and articulate professional looking out for our welfare.

Karl Ian Sagal
Wilmington

Please return her signs

Dear Editor:

Who stole my sign?

Two signs that say "Lynn Way" have been stolen in front of my home late at night while I am exhausted from working.

The thief brings tools and something to stand on, maybe a ladder of a truck bed.

The signs were on a metal pole at the end of my driveway. The sign says "Lynn Way," so the person's name must be Lynn, Linda or Lynette . . . or maybe somebody the thief cares about has one of those names.

This person must live or have worked near the Marion Extension area because it is a dead end and he or she would not have travelled it otherwise.

The deal I offer to this person is this: Return one sign, keep one sign. After all, no one needs two "Lynn Way" signs.

Please remember that it is the season of giving and returning.

"Lynn"
Marion Extension
Wilmington

This individual can find a way to anonymously return the sign to the Town Crier and we will contact the letter writer.

For more letters to the editor, please turn to page 10

Send your letters to the editor to: letters@towncrier.com

Town Crier

Tewksbury - Wilmington

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WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kevin Anderson Thanks to those who help Tewksbury

I'd like to take this time to say thanks to many of the unsung volunteer groups in Tewksbury who give special gifts back to the residents.

First, to all of the fraternal organizations in town, the Knights of Columbus, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and all their off-shoots, and to the Elks, thank you for all of your generous work.

Residents may not know this, but these organizations are very important to Tewksbury. When one of these wonderful organizations hears of a family in need, regardless of the time of year, they respond immediately with financial support and helpful hands from their members. To many struggling families, this help is what they need to get their feet back on the ground.

However, during this time of year, these organizations really pull together and combine their organization's financial resources and organizational strengths to give hope to many needy families. These groups make sure that kids and families alike have a merry Christmas.

Another group I'd like to mention is the Tewksbury Community Pantry and the local religious groups that work with them. The Community Pantry is just tireless in their quest to make sure that families don't go to bed hungry at any time during the year. This group keeps its year-round fundraising and food collection at such a high level, families always have a place to turn for help. Because of the year-round work they do, the Tewksbury Community Pantry can offer both long and short time support to Tewksbury residents. Donations from generous citizens, businesses and organizations allow the work of feeding those in need to continue at the Pantry.

The Tewksbury Rotary Club. This group of people contributed \$3,000 for the purchase of a defibrillator to be used by the Tewksbury Police Department. This group also purchased thermal imagery equipment for the Tewksbury Fire Department. The purchase of this equipment becomes especially important during tough economic times when the town's finances won't allow for these types of purchases. These purchases have helped keep our town and its residents safer.

The Tewksbury Garden Club is a small group of people that has been serving the town of Tewksbury for more than 30 years. This group cares for gardens around town, including the gazebo and town hall, and they also assist in decorating the town common every year for the holidays.

To all of the town's governmental volunteer committees, such as the Conservation Committee, the Master Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and so on, and every other volunteer group that works their tails off to make our town a better place to live, thank you.

I know that I've missed other organizations and groups that have done great things for our town, and to them I say sorry for not mentioning you this time, but I do want to give a personal thanks to all of you.

As we look forward to a new year, and as these groups continue to do their great work, I would hope others will find the time to help to lessen the load.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Kevin Anderson served multiple terms on the Tewksbury Board of Selectmen. He is now a columnist for the Town Crier who comments on Tewksbury issues.

Please turn to page 10 to read a teacher's response to Anderson's column about the ongoing teachers' contract negotiations in Tewksbury that appeared in this paper earlier this month.



CAROLS AND COOKIES. Wilmington residents Rachel Mills, left, and Brianna Fruciano, right, who are both girl scouts with Brownie Troop 1390, greeted Norman Fluet, center, and other residents of the Pines of Tewksbury with chocolate chip cookies and Christmas carols last week. (Denise Blair photo)

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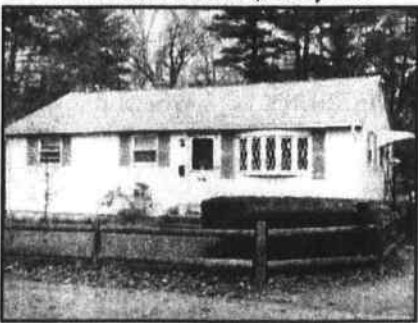


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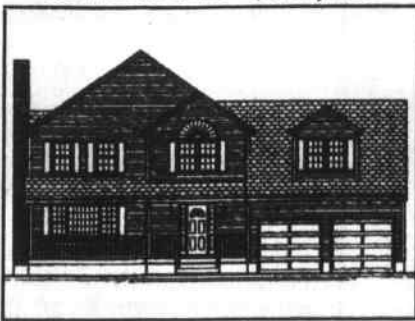


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Town Counsel strikes new deal

... continued from page 2

fashion. "I, in no way, will accept any criticism, whether implied or expressed, that that case was not handled in the correct way," Newhouse stated.

Attorney Kim Saillant stated that she was alerted to a case filed in May by the Attorney General's Office of which she had no knowledge because she had not been provided with its file. The case, she said, involved a particular "litigious" person in town.

"I do have his name on a file that is approximately four and a half inches thick and is labeled 'miscellaneous,'" Saillant stated. "I find it hard to understand how someone can be in a miscellaneous file." She also describe how she was taught to segregate files so that others could pick up her work, if necessary, without missing a beat.

"Absolutely none of the files I have are segregated that way," Saillant said.

In response, Newhouse explained that the file in question belonged to a case that had been settled and thus closed, which was why DeRensis did not have it.

"(The litigant) waited until the day after I was discharged to file his appeal," Newhouse stated. "What burns me is that I have offered to attorney DeRensis that if you have any questions about any file I would be happy to come to your office to take care of it. I have extended that invitation and it has been declined."

Attorney Peter Berry, who specializes in employment issues, told the board that it has been discovered that the town has not complied with state statutes regarding health and dental insurance. He stated that this had been the case for many years and that the town was vulnerable to some liability issues as a result. He is currently working to appropriately address those issues.

Newhouse did not address that issue directly.

Selectman Palmer was the first on the board to comment. He stated that the board should have hired a special counsel to attend executive sessions and advise of the board's rights under the current contract.

"Could the Town Counsel say the workload was more than he thought it would be, and if we don't renegotiate he would walk?" Palmer asked. "Would this be a breach of contract? We don't know because we didn't have special counsel."

Palmer stated that the matter should go before Town Meeting for residents to decide.

"We must consider that this contract has no cap, no cap whatsoever," Palmer said.

The situation would be different, Palmer said, if DeRensis waited until the end of his current contract to negotiate. He added that DeRensis re-negotiating five months after accepting the position was unfair to all of the other firms that applied for Town Counsel. Palmer recommended that the board should re-advertise for

legal services.

Selectman Frank West recalled that he had asked DeRensis during his initial interview if he was looking at the budget as nothing more than a "buy in" and would later seek to raise it.

"I'm still hesitant wondering if your firm bought in at a rate to get the job and (is) now coming back," West said. "But I am now seeing more legal issues than I was aware of when I was elected."

Selectmen Raymond Lepore, Suzanne Sullivan and Michael McCoy supported DeRensis and felt that the new price tag was valid for the delivery of the best possible services to the town. Sullivan stated that Wilmington had often been penny wise and pound foolish in the past.

"It is imperative to have the best legal counsel that we can have," Sullivan said. "I think the Town of Wilmington deserves it."

Former selectman Robert Cain stood in the audience and castigated DeRensis for re-negotiating his contract so early. He also wondered what advice DeRensis would offer the board if another contractor working for the town tried to re-negotiate for more money in a similar fashion.

When asked for his opinion, Town Manager Michael Caira took issue with a number of things that had been said during the meeting, but he could not dispute the competency of the current Town Counsel. Caira did say that DeRensis had offered a proposal letter indicating that he was ready to step in at the current budget, even after being asked several times by the board.

Caira rejected any suggestion that his office has not cooperated

with DeRensis. He also stated that he could offer a litany of examples of questionable cooperation from Derensis' side, if necessary, but suggested moving forward instead of backward.

Lepore applauded Caira's comments and also wished to push forward.

The revised agreement calls for a monthly retainer of \$4,500 for services to the Town of Wilmington.

The town will pay DeRensis \$160 per hour for non-retainer legal services through the end of December 2003 and will pay \$165 hourly thereafter. Non-retainer services include, but are not limited to, the work of Labor Counsel undertaking such services as collective bargaining, arbitration, grievance hearings, hearings before State Labor Relations Board or civic service or other administrative agencies relating to employee issues.

Trial Counsel, otherwise known as litigation, is also considered non-retainer services and includes adversarial proceedings such as trials, depositions, court motions and preparations and the like.

Real Estate Counsel and Bond or Tax Counsel are also areas not covered by retainer services.

Cain asked if the board could accept the revised agreement and then choose to enlist the services of any other law firm for non-retainer services.

"I have no objection to that," DeRensis said.

The Board voted to accept the revised agreement, with Palmer as the lone dissenter.

The agreement still requires the signatures of the Water and Sewer Commission before becoming officially accepted.



THEN ONE FOGGY CHRISTMAS EVE... Kellie Irvin and Kayla Marie Chiofilo belt out a favorite holiday tune about a certain reindeer who had a very shiny nose during the holiday concert performed by the Boutwell Early Childhood Center in Wilmington this week. (Maureen Lamoureux photo)

Local Postal District tops nation in customer service

The Massachusetts Postal District continues to earn the highest marks in the nation for customer service.

"This really is quite an honor," District Manager John W. "Mike" Powers III said in announcing residents of northeastern, central and western Massachusetts are "treated the best in the country."

The North Reading-based district includes Wilmington and Tewksbury Post Offices.

Measuring customer satisfaction is an ever-evolving process," Powers said.

Powers explained Customer

Satisfaction Measurement Residential (CSM-R) is a survey conducted by an independent agency that mails out questionnaires on a continuous basis to randomly selected households across the United States.

"Our 12,500 district employees should take pride in this accomplishment," Powers said. Massachusetts District encompasses more than 5,000 square miles, serving approximately three million customers through more than 300 locations.

Board of Health expands to 5 members

... continued from page 2

is crucial to the Board of Health and Tewksbury Health Director Thomas Carbone. As stated, the board is currently

comprised of three members, Chairwoman Stephanie Wilke, Jenny McCarthy and Edward Sheehan. If one of the members was unable to attend a meeting, the board was unable to vote on permits and applications because a quorum is always needed. With the addition of two new members on the board, this problem is eliminated.

"This is a plus for the community," says Carbone. "This will allow the Board of Health to

have a greater presence in town and take care of business in a timely manner."

The increase in number of members is one way in which the face of the Board of Health will change for certain once the 2004 election is held. Whether or not the board changes its appearance even further will be determined by voters, who must fill two three-year terms and one two-year term that are up for grabs on the Board of Health in April.

Nomination papers for all vacant seats in Tewksbury will become available on Friday, January 2. Carey encourages all interested parties to stop by the Office of the Town Clerk at the Town Hall and pick up their nomination papers and file them there before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17.

The 2004 Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, April 3.

No Child Left Behind Law

Tewksbury ahead of state in pursuit of student proficiency

However, some subgroups of students need more attention

By STEPHEN BJORK

TEWKSBURY - When it comes to leaving no child behind, the Tewksbury School System is proving to be ahead of the curve when compared to state levels.

At a School Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 17, Assistant Superintendent Loreen Bradley presented details on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations that the school system recently received from the state.

The AYP evaluates a school system's incremental progression towards compliance with the federally enacted No Child Left Behind law (NCLB), which mandates that all students within a school system must attain a level of "proficiency" within 12 years of schooling by the year 2014.

NCLB requires that states implement accountability systems for school districts, a law for which Massachusetts has complied through its creation of the MCAS exam. NCLB also mandates that states chart the progress of their school systems on an annual basis. Each school system must exhibit progress, deemed by the state to be adequate, toward the NCLB goal each and every year.

"AYP is a statement of whether or not a school has met its annual performance target for English/Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, starting from a baseline estab-

lished in 2002," Bradley told the School Committee.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, schools that generally make measurable and accepted improvements, but experience a one-year dip in academic achievement, are provided with "a fair chance to demonstrate that the decline is out of the ordinary."

In Massachusetts, this year's AYP evaluations are based on four determining factors, including participation rate in the 2003 MCAS administration, student performance in 2003 as compared to state performance targets for ELA and mathematics, district or school improvement compared to 2001 and 2002 MCAS results, and attendance for elementary and middle schools or competency determination attainment rates for high schools.

A school system's AYP is measured separately for ELA and mathematics and contains multiple determinations for students counted in the aggregate and in more than 20 subgroups. Subgroups include students with disabilities, students with limited proficiency in English, students who are economically disadvantaged, African American, Asian, White, and Native American.

Historically, the state has used only standard MCAS results to measure AYP. This year, however, the state is required to include data from the MCAS-AIT Assessment

Program.

"The Assessment results of students participating in MCAS-AIT assessments, together with those derived from standard MCAS tests, will be used to generate a 'Composite Performance Index' on which AYP determinations will be based," Bradley said.

The Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) has analyzed scores from the 2003 MCAS administration to determine the current baseline starting point for each school. On a statewide level, 75.6 percent of all students have attained the proficiency level in ELA and 60.8 percent of all students have attained the level of proficiency in mathematics.

Tewksbury students exceed state levels with proficiency levels of 88.5 percent in ELA and 78.8 percent in mathematics.

Based on those DOE figures, the Tewksbury Public School District has met the required AYP in both ELA and mathematics for the aggregate student body.

Some subgroups within the district did not fare so well. Economically disadvantaged students, such as those eligible for free/reduced school lunches, did not attain all of the four criteria for a successful AYP. "Additional efforts will be placed on finding ways to improve the achievement for the students found in this area," Bradley said.

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Insurance Weekly

by Christina Miceli, CPCU, CIC, LIA

PRIORITIES AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH

According to a study called the "Report of American Priorities," after September 11th, 2001, 62% of respondents said that their financial well-being is of greater concern than their mortality. When asked to choose one out of four hypothetical experiences that would have the greatest financial impact on them over the next five years, 53% of respondents selected the "inability to work due to serious illness." Almost half (47%) indicated that they would purchase a wealth management tool that paid them or their family a benefit in the form of a lump sum payment in the event of serious illness. Ironically, only half (52%) said they already had disability insurance, and only one in three has long-term care insurance.

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staff is fully trained to guide you through today's intricate insurance options that tend to your specific needs. Don't put it off any longer, give us a call - we'll be happy to advise you. It makes good sense to take advantage of the expert advice your team of experienced insurance specialists can provide. Call us and let's talk insurance at 978-657-7200. You'll Like the Way We do Business.™

Have a wonderful & safe holiday season!

NOTE: Three-quarters of respondents to the survey mentioned above said they somewhat or strongly agree that life insurance policies should offer access to money for setbacks other than death.

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Tewksbury Senior Center expansion Next proposal will be scaled back

By STEPHEN BJORK

TEWKSBURY - The Senior Center Building Committee is hoping to create a new, successful plan for an expansion to the Senior Center.

According to Senior Center Director Linda Brabant, the Tewksbury Council of Aging is planning to meet on January 13 with architects from Sterling Associates, the firm that designed the original expansion proposal, which was defeated during a special election in October. The meeting will address areas in which the expansion can be downsized or scaled back.

"We designed what was needed; in fact, it's less than we needed," Brabant says, referring to the deletion of nearly 10,000 square feet of space from early plans.

She expects to focus on the multi-functional room located at the main entrance of the center, which is currently designed to accommodate 500 people. After a recent trip to the ballroom at the Tewksbury Country Club, Brabant feels that the proposed function room could probably be downsized. The country club's ballroom holds approximately 300 to 350 people.

Opponents of the proposed expansion pointed to the \$6.2 price tag as being excessive, especially when presented in the middle of a suffering economy.

"We all felt confident that what we presented was valid, but the townspeople felt it wasn't," Brabant says. "We don't know yet how much we are going to be able to lower costs of the project."

Some funds had been set aside to pay for the rental of space for the short time that the seniors would be displaced during the construction.

"Maybe we can find space donated to us," Brabant says.

When the proposed Senior Center expansion first went before voters at the October 2003 Special Town Meeting, more than 250 Tewksbury residents supported its article, which passed with little opposition.

Town Meeting, however, was only half of the battle. The proposal still hinged on the outcome of a debt exemption vote held during a Special Town Election on October 25. The proposal lost by a mere 85 votes.

The proposal, which was the only question to appear on the ballot, asked voters whether the town should be allowed to be exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2 for the purpose of raising \$6.2 million for the construction.

According to Town Clerk Elizabeth Carey, 1,772 registered voters reported to the polls on October 25. That number represents a surprisingly low 10 percent of the 18,069 registered voters living in town.

Senior Center Building Committee member Joseph Deputat is hoping that the meetings with Sterling go well and that a suitable compromise can be created.

"I think it's a great idea. The town really needs this," Deputat says. "At one point, the Senior Center may have been big enough for this town, but it isn't anymore."

The Senior Center has long outgrown the current facility. The corners of certain rooms are being used as the only available place for storage. The small and cramped nurse's office has cookware stacked from the floor to ceiling of an entire wall and is not able to accommodate even a single cot. The cot is housed, instead, in a room across the hall.

The Senior Center opens its arms to a number of Tewksbury organizations, and not just for the senior population. Groups such as the Peacemakers, Share, the Garden Club, scouts, the Historic Society and others use the facilities. The size of the facility, however, is hampering its ability to offer programs to benefit the community.

"We have to turn programs, even seminars, away right now," states Brabant.

The building also serves as one of the town's polling locations for local, state, and national elections.



A CHECK AND A BAG-O-CASH. Such were the gifts presented recently from Tewksbury firefighters and the Marine Corps to the Toys for Tots program. Front row, from left to right: Tewksbury Firefighter Joe Kearns; Lowell Firefighter Fave Keane; Toys for Tots Civilian Coordinator Cindy Hickey; Sergeant Marine Tyrone Brown; Dracut Firefighter Leo McMahon; and Lynn Firefighter Dan Evans. Back row, from left to right: Billerica Firefighter Tom Larkin; Lynn Firefighter Tim Lawrence; and Chelmsford Firefighter William Amundson. (Maureen Lamoureux photo)

Santa's making one last stop before he hits the skies

TEWKSBURY - Hey, kids. This could very well be your last chance to bend the ear of the Man in the Red Suit. You know who we mean.

Santa Claus will visit Robert's Chiropractic Health Care at

1501 Main Street in Tewksbury between 4 and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24.

The office staff will take pictures of kids and Santa and post them on the company's website.

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Eames Street fatality results in guilty pleas

Royal Dynasty patrons were drag racing

By PAMELA MIETH

WILMINGTON - Two Woburn men pleaded guilty on Tuesday, December 16, to charges in connection to a drag race that resulted in the death of a Dracut man on Eames Street in Wilmington last year.

Nicholas Demonico, 24, of Woburn, pleaded guilty to a charge of felony motor vehicle homicide in Middlesex Superior Court. He was sentenced by Judge Paul Chernoff to three years in State Prison. He began serving his sentence immediately.

James Quigley, 24, also of Woburn, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of motor vehicle homicide. He was sentenced to two and a half years, with two to serve and the balance suspended for three years. He will not begin serving his sentence until December 26.

According to police, the two friends were racing on a Eames Street on April 9, 2002, when Demonico's car, in the oncoming lane, collided with James Cunningham, 32, of Dracut, a married father of three riding his motorcycle to work. Cunningham was rushed to Lahey Clinic in Burlington, but was pronounced dead several hours later.

The pair had been drinking at the Royal Dynasty restaurant on Lowell Street in Wilmington prior to the accident. The Wilmington Board of Selectmen later issued a three-day liquor license suspension to Royal Dynasty for over-serving the two men, but the restaurant appealed the suspension to the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC). The ABCC upheld the suspension, and the restaurant has appealed it in court.

Demonico and Quigley initially pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and had been free on their own recognizance, with the provisions they not drive, consume drugs or alcohol, commit other crimes or have contact with the victim's family.

According to reports in the Lowell Sun, Demonico was charged with possession of heroin in July, but was again released on his own recognizance.

The paper reported that Demonico's lawyer, George Murphy, said his client became addicted to pain killers after he took them for a broken leg suffered in the crash. He then became addicted to heroin to dull his physical and emotional pain.

Murphy also read a statement from Demonico in which he expressed remorse and said the incident kills him daily inside, according to the Sun.

He also expressed the hope the Cunningham family could forgive him as he tries to forgive himself, the Sun reported.

Members of the Cunningham family, including his wife, mother and siblings, read moving impact statements about their devastating loss in court, the Sun reported, with wife, Jennifer Cunningham quoted as saying, "Nothing can bring Jim back and I know that, but our children should know that something has been done about it."

Cunningham said Demonico made a choice to race down a small back road nearly four years ago, but her family did not have the benefit of a choice. "We only suffer the consequences," she stated.

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Obituaries

Albert A. DeGregorio Sr.

Retired machinist and musician; age 93

EAST BOSTON - Albert A. DeGregorio Sr., age 93, who leaves family locally in Tewksbury and Salem, NH and Cape Cod, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, at the Cape Cod Nursing and Rehabilitation Hospital in Buzzards Bay, after a short period of failing health. He was the husband of Natalie V. (Miraglia) DeGregorio, who died on May 31, 2003.

He was born in East Boston, April 25, 1910, a son of the late Vincenzo and Carmela (Bonillo) DeGregorio. He lived his entire life in East Boston, where he was a communicant of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church.

He retired from General Electric Company in 1973, after working for more than 28 years as a machinist in the East Boston, Lynn, and Everett plants. He was a member of the I.U.E. Union.

Mr. DeGregorio was an accomplished musician who

played many instruments, but specialized in Alto Saxophone. He was a member and leader of many bands during his musical career, and played thousands of functions in the greater Boston area.

He is survived by four sons and three daughters-in-law, Daniel DeGregorio of Buzzards Bay, MA, Ronald and his wife Susan (Toll) of Salem, NH, Albert and his wife Judy (Ashley) DeGregorio of Buzzards Bay, MA, and William and his wife Esther (Garofalo) DeGregorio of Tewksbury, 9 cherished grandchildren; 10 cherished great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also brother of the late Mario DeGregorio, Dora Caturano, Frances Giardulo, Florence Purcilo, and Irene Durante.

His funeral was Monday, Dec. 22, at 8:45 a.m. from the Tewksbury Funeral Home, corner of Dewey and Main Sts. (Rte 38) Tewksbury Center, phone (800 or 978) 851-2950. Funeral Mass Monday at 10:00 a.m. in St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Haggets Pond Rd., West Andover. Visiting hours Sunday 4 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, No. Tewksbury.

www.tewksburyfuneralhome.com

Stella F. Jaques

Devoted grandmother, loved to fly, 79

WILMINGTON - Stella F. (Filipiak) Jaques of Reading passed away on Monday, December 22, 2003 at Woodbriar Nursing Home in Wilmington. She was 79 years of age.

Born in Chelsea, Stella was the daughter of Walter and Michelina Filipiak. She was a longtime resident of Reading. She was a loving and caring daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She will be missed by all.

Stella had an unparalleled love for her family. She was a devoted grandmother. A devout Catholic, Stella was very active in St. Agnes Church. She enjoyed caring for the elderly. She had a passion for travel and loved to fly with her husband William. She was known as the "navigator."

Stella was the beloved wife of the late William D. Jaques. She was the devoted mother of Robert R. Jaques and his wife Donna of San Francisco, Diane Jaques and her husband Joseph Chiu of Concord, Carol Jaques and her husband David

DiCicco. Stella was the cherished grandmother of Kristen and Jennifer Jaques, Ryan and Elizabeth Chiu, Dawn and Kelly DiCicco and the dear sister of the late Jessie White and Stephen Filipiak.

Funeral from the Joseph Doherty Funeral Home, 11 Linden St., Reading Saturday at 8 am followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Agnes Church, 186 Woburn St., Reading at 9 am. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend visiting hours Friday 3-7 pm. Parking available in the municipal parking lot located behind Atlantic Supermarket on Haven St. Interment at Forest Glen Cemetery, Reading. Donations in memory of Stella may be made to Heartbeat, 113 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803.

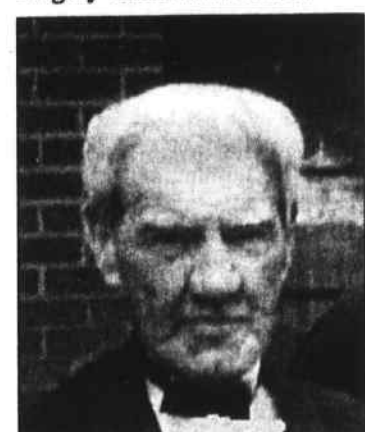
Arrangements by the Joseph Doherty Funeral Home, 11 Linden St. Reading.

For directions or to send a memorial condolence www.iosephdohertyfuneralhome.com

Walter J. Rose

Carpenter for Flagg Construction; 68

TEWKSBURY - Walter J. Rose, age 68, a well known carpenter in the greater Lowell area, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2003, at his home in Dracut, after a lengthy battle with cancer.



He was born in Lexington, Oct. 22, 1935, a son of the late John and Dorothy (Murray) Rose. He was raised in Lexington, and lived in Woburn for 15 years before moving to Tewksbury where he had spent the greater part of his life. He moved to Dracut 6 years ago.

For the last 30 years, he was employed as a carpenter for Flagg Construction, based in Tewksbury.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Elizabeth, two sons and a daughter-in-law; James Rose of Methuen, and Shawn and his wife Shannon Rose of Calif.; three step-sons, Charles

and his wife Patricia Hughes, Jr. of Penn., James and his wife Lumeal Hughes of Derry, NH; Joseph Hughes of Concord, NH; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, John and his wife Alice Rose, Theran and his wife Barbara Rose, and Taylor Rose all of Woburn; two sisters, Jean Fournier of Somerville, and Alice Malone of Nashua, NH; seven grandchildren, Lyndsey, Samantha, and Matthew Rose, Charles Hughes III, William Price, Katherine and Jeffrey Hughes; and many nieces and nephews including a special niece, Donna Solazzi of Lowell, great nieces and nephews, and great great nieces and nephews.

He was also brother of the late Richard Rose, Mary Mennella, and Barbara Davis.

His funeral was Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 11:00 a.m. in the Tewksbury Funeral Home, corner of Dewey and Main Sts. (Rte 38) Tewksbury Center, phone (800 or 978) 851-2950. Visiting hours Monday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, No. Tewksbury. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Tribute Program, 1 Harvard St., Boston, MA 02145-9795 will be appreciated.

www.tewksburyfuneralhome.com

Richard L. Smallidge

Formerly of Wilmington; wrote and studied history to politics; at 50

WILMINGTON - On December 18, 2003, Wilmington lost one of its sons, Rick Smallidge was one of Wilmington's football team's favorite running backs.

Rick L. Smallidge, formerly of Wilmington and now of Milford, MA., died, suddenly at his late residence at 50 years of age.

Rick was the dear father of Erick Smallidge and his wife Nicole of Methuen, and the beloved son of Hilliard and Arlene (Chandler) Smallidge, formerly of Wilmington, and now of California, and Merrimack, N.H. He was the brother of Donald Smallidge of Maine, David Smallidge of Brockton, MA., Cynthia Morrissey of Merrimack, N.H., Marianne DiLiddo of Webster, MA., and April Smallidge of California. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Richard enjoyed his lifestyle and was an avid reader. He wrote and studied everything from history to politics. All of his brothers and sisters enjoyed the challenge of picking his brain, and asking trivia questions. Rick was employed as a warehouse manager for a sporting good company. Rick left us with an important philosophy:

"We are born and we die. What do we do in between? We live! Sounds pretty simple. Rocks do it, plants do it, and animals do it. But, human beings have a brain with limitless capacity to acquire and store knowledge. In the quest for an answer to a single ques-

tion, an additional 1,000 questions are generated. And in the quest for answers to these additional 1,000 questions, each question generates an additional 1,000 questions. That sounds like a pretty good way to spend time between birth and death that we call living."

3/4/92 By: Rick Smallidge

He will be missed by all.

Visiting hours were held on Sunday, Dec 21, 2003 at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62), Wilmington, from 3-7 P.M. A family memorial service was held on Tuesday at the Funeral Home at 11:00. Interment Wildwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.



GOING SOLO. Seventh grader Janella Vultaggio did Dorothy and Toto proud with her rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" during the holiday concert that was recently held at the Wynn Middle School in Tewksbury. (Maureen Lamoureux photo)



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Say this prayer nine times a day, by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be answered. My prayers have been answered.

12/24/03

D.H.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and praised throughout the world now and forever, Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day, by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be answered. My prayers have been answered.

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DEP takes more aggressive stance on Olin clean-up

Town Manager calls development a major step forward

By STEPHEN BJORK

WILMINGTON - Wilmington received positive correspondence from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding clean-up efforts at the Olin Chemical property located at 51 Eames Street.

The letter is addressed to the Olin Corporation and discusses the scope of work to be performed by the chemical company within the Pre-Remedial Investigation of the Maple Meadow Aquifer Study Area.

During a selectmen meeting on December 22, Town Manager Michael Cairra read aloud what he considered to be the most noteworthy passage in the letter.

As a final note, the DEP

writes, "the DEP feels that the progress of cleanup actions at this site is at a crucial juncture."

"DEP is currently examining its ability to continue a high level of staff investment in the Olin site. Internal discussions have begun regarding the possibility of referring this site to the federal National Priorities List (a.k.a. Superfund program)."

"DEP management has identified expedited progress in implementing feasible cleanup/containment options as a critical element in DEP's decision to maintain an active involvement in the Olin site. Should remedial actions in the Maple Meadow Brook Aquifer not proceed on a schedule acceptable to DEP, DEP will

further explore the alternative of divesting its role in the case.

"Your response to these matters will greatly influence DEP's decision making on whether to refer this site to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program."

Cairra considered these DEP statements to be a major step forward for the town. Selectperson Suzanne Sullivan thanked the Town Manager for calling attention to that section of the letter, which she had planned to do otherwise.

"This is a significant development," Sullivan said, "for the DEP to even put this down in writing."



HONK IF YOU LOVE THE HOLIDAYS. Wynn Middle School Band trumpeteers Nick Tradella, John DePonte and Andy Couto made themselves heard during a recent holiday concert in Tewksbury. (Maureen Lamoureux photo)

Water study presented

By STEPHEN BJORK

WILMINGTON - After more than two years of work, representatives from SEA Consultants presented their Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) during a meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission last week. The plan was written in collaboration with the town's Citizen Advisory Panel, which was formed in 2002 to address environmental concerns in the community.

The CWRMP identifies a myriad of Wilmington's water supply concerns and offers alternatives and improvements to the current system, in order to effectively conserve and protect the town's drinking water.

Wilmington was forced to close 5 out of its 9 wells early in 2003 due to the contaminants originating from the Olin Chemical site at 51 Eames Street and, possibly, the Maple Meadow Landfill, which sits directly on top of one of the town's key aquifers. Nitrosodimethylamine, commonly referred to as NDMA, was later discovered in the closed wells; the potential for ever regaining use of those wells is in question.

The roughly 500-page CWRMP identifies a number of goals for the town. Topping the list is the ability of the town to provide adequate, safe potable water while protecting in-town sources. Preservation and enhancement of the Ipswich River was also a goal of Wilmington, along with supporting the Master Plan-prescribed land uses and development characteristics.

Two more goals set by SEA and the Citizens Advisory Panel involve minimizing costs to taxpayers and rate payers and obtaining support from state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), stakeholders, and voters at Town

Meeting.

According to Jon Beekman, the Project Manager with SEA, stakeholders include Wilmington residents; various town boards, committees and officials; the DEP; the Ipswich River Watershed Association; the Massachusetts Water resource Authority (MWRA); the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and municipal representatives from abutting towns.

The CWRMP recommends implementing additional water conservation. According to Beekman, the recent installing of a state-of-the-art metering system will, after a year's worth of data collection, lead to the reconfiguring of rate structures to reflect equitable billing practices.

"(The town can) work with commercial and industrial accounts on minimizing their use by cooperatively performing water audits to define areas of saving," Beekman said.

To encourage residential water conservation, Beekman recommends providing plumbing fixtures that residents can easily install, such as faucet aerators and low flow shower heads.

SEA recommends that the town investigate the bedrock well underneath the Town Forest as a potential location for a well and upgrading the equipment at Brown's Crossing and the Salem Street wells.

The CWRMP further recommends extending MWRA sewers to targeted areas and investigating the possibility for a full-time MWRA water membership.

Findings have led the CWRMP to recommend that the Maple Meadow Brook aquifers' wells be discontinued and that the town implement local stormwater regulations.

With those recommendations, SEA is confident that Wilmington will meet or exceed its stated goals.

Tewksbury Police Log

Monday, December 15

Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on River Road, Clark Road and Andover Street.

An assault and battery reportedly occurred at the Home Depot on Main Street.

Brenda White, 42, of Tewksbury, was arrested at a residence on South Rhoda Street and was charged with domestic assault and battery.

Wednesday, December 17
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Main Street and Whipple Road.

The rear window of a vehicle parked on Pratt Street was reportedly maliciously smashed.

Thursday, December 18
Motor vehicle-related acci-

dents were reported on East Street, Main Street, and Sunset Road.

A residence was reportedly burglarized on Otis Drive.

Friday, December 19
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Andover Street, Patrick Road, Main Street, and Pleasant Street.

Peter Gabriel, 31, of Lowell, was arrested in the vicinity of 918 Main Street on the basis of a warrant.

Mary McGuire, 22, of Lowell, was arrested at 333 Main Street and was charged with shoplifting by asportation.

Leonardo Lozada, 23, of Lowell, was arrested in the vicinity of 1775 Andover Street and was charged with operat-

ing a vehicle after the suspension/revocation of his driver's license.

Coleen Cadger, 33, of Lowell, was arrested in Lowell and was charged with her second offense of operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and failing to stay within marked lanes of travel.

Saturday, December 20
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Mitchell G Drive and Andover Street.

Bounsang Phoumyong, 66, of Lowell, was arrested at 333 Main Street and was charged with shoplifting by asportation.

Michael Lenzi, Jr., 20, of Lowell, was arrested in the vicinity of 918 Main Street on the basis of a warrant.

Sunday, December 21

Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Northgate Road, Towanda Road, Town Hall Avenue, and Main Street.

Marc Kristal and Joseph Medeiros, both 18 and from Billerica, and two 17-year-old Billerica juveniles were arrested on Bruce Street and charged with breaking and entering during nighttime hours for the purpose of committing a felony, committing the larceny of property valued at more than \$250, and receiving stolen property valued at more than \$250.

Patrick Blais, 45, of Tewksbury was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

Wilmington Police Log

Monday, December 15

Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Aldrich Road, Ballardvale Street, Church Street and Lowell Street.

Tuesday, December 16
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Jewel Drive, Lowell Street and Richmond Street.

Michael Asaro, 41, of Medford, was arrested at the intersection of Lowell and Main Streets and was charged with operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Wednesday, December 17
A motor vehicle-related accident was reported on Lowell Street.

James Gordon, of Saco, Maine, was arrested on Interstate 93 and was charged with operating a vehicle after the revocation of his driver's license.

Marc Rowe, 31, of Wilmington, was arrested at 39 Jacquith Road on the basis of a warrant.

Thursday, December 18
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Woburn Street and Lowell Street.

Three mailboxes at three separate residences on Aldrich Road were reportedly vandalized.

Friday, December 19
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Ballardvale Street and Lowell Street.

Hillary Davis, 23, of Newburyport, was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Christopher Szymanski, 33, of Andover, was arrested and charged with his second offense of operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Robert Sterling, 41, of Medford, was arrested on the basis of a warrant and was charged with operating a vehicle after the suspension of his driver's license, falsely attaching license plates to a vehicle, and operating an unregistered vehicle.

Saturday, December 20
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Main Street, Salem Street, and Denault Drive.

Ignition wires were reportedly maliciously cut on a vehicle parked on Sherburn Place.

Michael Desroches, 36, of Framingham, was arrested in the vicinity of 634 Main Street and was charged with his second offense of operating a vehi-

cle while under the influence of alcohol, failing to stay within marked lanes of travel and speeding.

Three 16-year-old juveniles, of Malden, Melrose and Wilmington, were arrested in the vicinity of 27 King Street and were all charged with being minors in possession of alcohol.

Sunday, December 21
Motor vehicle-related accidents were reported on Middlesex Avenue and Shawsheen Avenue.

Clara Payton-Scales, 39, of

Woburn, was arrested in the vicinity of 159 Church Street on the basis of a warrant.

Joseph Scacella, 31, of Malden, was arrested in the vicinity of 420 Main Street and was charged with operating a vehicle after the suspension of his driver's license.

Daniel Haas, 27, of Wilmington, was arrested in the vicinity of 135 Andover Street and was charged with operating a vehicle after the revocation of his driver's license and violating a red light.

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Local schools share holiday spirit

By STEPHEN BJORK

TEWKSBURY - The holiday spirit has once again taken hold with the Tewksbury School System.

During a School Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 17, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine McGrath reported that each school in the district has organized fundraisers and gift-giving activities.

The faculty of the Ella Flemings School, for instance, has adopted the spirit that it is better to give than to receive. They are requesting that their students' parents and guardians bring a gift-wrapped toy to school for the "Toys for Tots" Charity Drive in lieu of gifts for the staff.

The staff of the Loella F. Dewing School has been busy collecting food for the Tewksbury Food Pantry, but students and faculty members have found time to assemble their traditional "Giving Tree." As a result, they have donated

more than 500 gifts to area children who are served through the Department of Social Services.

The Dewing School's 4th and 5th graders have donated to the "Sun Santa" and to the "Make a Wish" Program.

This is the fifteenth year that the North Street School will raise funds for the House of Hope. Once again, the school has collected pennies, spare change, and checks to benefit this local shelter for mothers and children.

Students at the Heath Brook School also have a "Giving Tree" to benefit members of the community and will continue their traditional "Coats for Kids" drive.

A special mailbox for gift certificates has been established at the Louise D. Trahan School. Donated gift certificates will be given to area teens served through the Department of Social Services. The school will also collect "Toys for Tots," "Coats for Kids," and will

assemble gift packages for Trahan School families that could be helped by them.

Gift donations for needy families in the Saint William's Parish are being assembled by the staff of the John F. Ryan School. Additionally, the school will conduct a food drive during the month of January when food supplies typically become quite low.

The John W. Wynn School has completed a very successful food drive to benefit the Tewksbury Food Pantry and is in the middle of conducting a "Toys for Tots" collection.

A coat drive is just one of the three events scheduled by the Student Council and the National Honor Society of Tewksbury Memorial High School. A food drive will benefit the Tewksbury Food Pantry and a holiday drive with gifts will benefit the House of Hope, Alternative House, and the Tewksbury Hospital.



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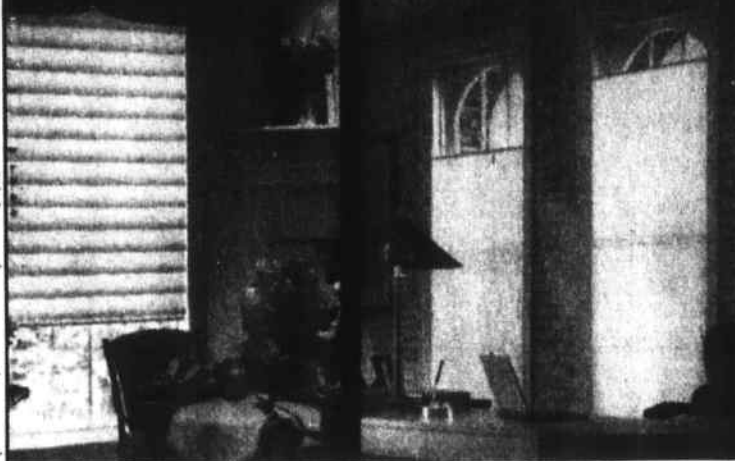
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Letters to the Editor

Column failed to properly address teachers' situation

Dear Mr. Anderson:

As a teacher in the town of Tewksbury, I just wanted to let you know how disappointed I was with your column on December 10th ("Sometimes, the money's not there for teachers' raises"). From start to finish, I felt as though the article was full of vague generalities that certainly don't accurately address the situation in Tewksbury. There were a number of statements with which I disagreed:

"Teachers would like you to believe that their job is more important than everyone else's job."

I'll object on terms of speculation. This is a not-so-subtle way of turning the residents of Tewksbury against their teachers. I've taught in Tewksbury for six years, and I can't think of a single instance in which a teacher has placed the importance of teaching above other professions. If you can cite a specific example of a Tewksbury teacher making such a claim, please do so.

"If the money is there, they get a raise; if not, they don't. It's that simple."

Unfortunately, it's not that simple. Teachers can certainly understand the school committee's concern over the current state of the economy. However, in the past the school committee has been unwilling to reward the teachers during times of economic prosperity.

Our last contract of 3% per year for three years was signed in 2000 in the midst of arguably the most thriving economy in U.S. History. In surrounding towns during this same period, teachers were given significantly higher salary increases. Consequently, the salaries of Tewksbury's teachers have fallen far below those of their colleagues from the Merrimack Valley.

"Don't compare yourself to the police, fire, or DPW employees in your quest to get more money. You don't do their job, so don't compare yourself to their professions and their salaries"

As a member of the TTA (Tewksbury Teachers' Association) Action Committee, I can tell you we've taken great care in not comparing our situation to those of the police, fire, and public works departments. Throughout this process, we've compared ourselves only to teachers in surrounding towns and Tewksbury's school administrators, whose last three-year agreement (signed shortly after the teachers' contract) was worth over 14% for three years. In a time when more and more is being demanded of teachers, we feel it's inequitable for the gap between teacher and administrator salaries to increase.

The town is forced to live within a 2% increase on property tax. For people who may

not know this, the 2% is all we should increase the teachers' salary."

In reality, the number is 2.5%, and when property values rise (as they have in recent years), the property tax brings in more money even without increasing the rate of taxation. Furthermore, the towns in the Merrimack Valley, where Tewksbury ranks last in top-end teacher salary, have consistently been given raises that exceed your 2% limit. As a result in 2002-2003, Tewksbury's top-end salary for teachers holding a master's degree was 2.1% lower than Wilmington's, 4.8% lower than Billerica's, 6.6% lower than Chelmsford's, and 16.7% lower than Andover's. Since we've not yet been given an increase in salary this year, the inequity would actually be even more dramatic if adjusted for 2003-2004. How far behind those towns do you want us to fall? If we never sign a contract that calls for a raise greater than 2%, it won't be long until those figures double.

It's also worth noting that the average annual rate of inflation between 1975 and 2000 is 4.97%, which means that with an annual salary increase of only 2%, teachers will actually get paid less and less each year. "Public servants" or not, I assure you no teacher chose this profession with the expectation of losing money each

year.

"In my opinion, the number of teachers in a system is more important than paying teachers with the most seniority more money for raises."

Actually, it's the number of quality teachers that's most important, and Tewksbury's in jeopardy of not being able to recruit quality teachers anymore. Furthermore, if our salaries are not competitive with surrounding towns, we'll start to lose even more of the great teachers we currently have.

Mr. Anderson, while it's clear that you don't believe in supporting teachers during negotiations, I urge you to at least take the time to research the details of the current situation in Tewksbury. By writing a letter addressing the negotiations in two towns, I feel your general and at times inaccurate statements did the teachers of both towns an injustice.

Sincerely,
John Byrnes

EDITOR'S NOTE. The figure of 2 percent that appeared in Anderson's column occurred as the result of an error made during the editing process. A clarification to that effect that stated 2.5 as the correct percentage was published in last week's edition of the Town Crier.

**Merry Christmas
and
Have a
Happy, Healthy
New Year**

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

WAYNE MCKENZIE



Dear Editor:
We have all heard from the

naysayers about the new mall, but I ask how we can turn this down?

The Mills Corporation is proposing a state-of-the-art shopping mall, cinema and skating facility on a parcel of land to be accessed only from Route 93.

This corporations owns and operates many malls nationwide. (Check out their website at www.Millscorp.com.) Their stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. (symbol: MLS) They are a serious com-

pany with a serious offer on the table.

This development will bring tax revenue and jobs to the town. Upon completion, the Mills Corporation would be, by far, the largest Tewksbury property taxpayer, paying an estimated \$3 million each year in taxes. An estimated 3,000 new retail jobs would become available.

Unfortunately, our town cannot afford to preserve open space around our highways. I urge town residents to pay

attention to the positive information, especially from a financial standpoint.

As with all debated issues, the negative information circulates quickly.

As with all development, landowners will make a profit.

As a town, we can profit.

We cannot afford to turn all developers away.

Leann D'Entremont
Tewksbury

Season's Greetings!



President Susan Mace with our Wilmington Office Staff

Holiday Hours For All Of Our Offices Will Be:

Wednesday, December 24 th /Christmas Eve	Closing At 1:00 PM
Thursday, December 25 th /Christmas Day	Closed All Day
Wednesday, December 31 st /New Year's Eve	Closing At 4:00 PM
Thursday, January 1 st /New Year's Day	Closed All Day

Our regular banking hours will resume on Friday,
December 26th and Friday, January 2nd.

ATMs are available at ALL office locations for your convenience.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday and happy, healthy New Year.



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WILMINGTON

8 room contemporary split entry home with 3+ bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 fireplaces and more! Features a finished lower level perfect for in-law potential! A must see!

\$407,900



WILMINGTON

Look no further! Gorgeous brand new 7rm, 3bdrm, 2.5 bath col on dead-end street. 1 Acre lot home, boasts quality workmanship. Beautiful oak eat-in kitchen, master suite w/bath & walk-in closet. Huge lower level fam rm. Perfect for entertaining!

\$469,900



WILMINGTON

Sharp 46' contemporary split with cathedral ceilings thru-out living room, dining room and kitchen. Hardwood floors, 2.5 baths, finished LL family room w/ fireplace & bar. Built-in pool, level lot on almost 25 acres!

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Letter to the Editor

Big Dig vs. Big Rig

Dear Editor:

After 10 years and \$15 Billion of our money, the last major milestone of the Big Dig is complete. My ride over the new Zakim Bridge and into the Liberty, oops, O'Neill Tunnel was such a marvelous experience that I think it was worth every nickel spent on this 11th Wonder of the World. Boy, it really puts the Panama Canal to shame. If you believe this, then I have another bridge for sale in Brooklyn.

I must admit, though, the traffic does move efficiently through the tunnel and getting rid of the rusty eyesore of the old Central Artery is an engineering marvel. So in the end, we should all be happy with the new green space of parks and walkways along the entire 1-mile corridor in downtown Boston. I can't wait to see the finished product. All of the property owners along the Central Artery will see a big increase in property value and tourism will increase once again.

Alas, as Boston will be seeing the light of day from this major quality-of-life improvement, Tewksbury and Wilmington will be subjected to the exact opposite from the proposed build-out of the 483 Corridor between Wilmington and Andover. In our situation, the public and private sectors want to replace the wetlands and watersheds in our communities with concrete and asphalt, which will destroy our quality of life. Go figure. If this happens, then living in Boston becomes more attractive than living in the suburbs. Boston is saved and Tewksbury is lost.

This is our government at work for us. They want to use up to \$35 million of our tax money to build a highway access ramp through Tewksbury and Wilmington so some special interests can maximize the value of their property, while the residents in the nearby neighborhoods see their property values plummet. Instead of moving traffic along the corridor, they will be creating a traffic nightmare.

The 3 million square feet of potential development in Tewksbury and Wilmington plus further expansion of Wyeth and Gillette should be cause for concern, not a cause for celebration. All of the government agencies

promoting Smart Growth, Livable Communities, and Master Planning are nowhere to be found in finding a sensible solution to the future growth in our communities. All the alphabet agencies like MVPC, NMCOC, MAPC, FHWA, EPA, EOE, DEM, and EOTC all think they know better what is good for us than we do.

All we have is a bunch of sheep with no backbone to stand up against the assault on our way of life and the character of our communities. Our elected officials have sold us out for the almighty dollar once again. When will we scream that we have had enough and won't take it anymore?

The proverbial line has been drawn in the sand with the threats of commercial development versus residential development versus open space. We will be forced into making a choice because our leaders have caved in to the special interests once again. Every neighborhood in Tewksbury has been squeezed by allowing industrial-commercial development to intrude upon our residential neighborhoods and daily life. Whether its Raytheon, Demoulas, Metropolitan Life, or California Paint, we all have seen the aftermath of poor planning.

So, I guess in the eyes of our elected officials, it's okay to destroy one more neighborhood in Tewksbury. What's next, the Great Swamp? Why is that area so sacred? Why can't the Mall be sited there? After all, Mills has already received approval to build on the New Jersey Meadowlands. Why should we care if we destroy an endangered species like the Spotted Owl or Speckled Turtle?

Some would rather destroy a neighborhood like Jennie's Way and further jeopardize an already sensitive environmental area with tons of concrete and asphalt and millions of polluting vehicles. That's typical of economic progress in Tewksbury. Who should care if there is an aquifer, a wetland, a watershed, or a human being in the way? Mills didn't care in Maryland when a sacred Indian Burial ground got in the way of their development. Why should they care about anything or anyone in Tewksbury?

Bring it on, as they say, we need

new taxes to hire more police and more firemen so we can respond to the crime and emergencies created by 14 million people visiting the Mall each year. Don't staff the North Street fire station, we can't afford it. We need an ice rink so our kids don't have to practice and play so far from home like Lowell and Tyngsboro. We need a mall in our backyard because Salem and Nashua are just too far away. We need more jobs like the high paying part time food court burger flippers and inventory clerk positions at the mall. That will surely help them pass the MCAS tests and get into college. And we wonder why America has lost its way.

And now we hear the Mall proponents and our elected officials are telling us we have until February to weigh all the pluses and minuses and make a decision that will determine the future of our community forever. Everyone should be asking them, What's the rush? Why can't we have a

real public forum to ask questions and get answers before Town Meeting? They will tell you that this is the best thing that ever happened to Tewksbury in terms of taxes and jobs.

They won't tell you there will be constant traffic congestion throughout the entire area. They won't tell you that wetlands and watershed will be destroyed. They won't tell you that another 2 million square feet of peripheral commercial development is planned. They won't tell you why Mills Corp. has been tossed out by numerous other communities across the country. They won't tell you that the Mall will directly impact local merchants on every Main Street and strip mall in the Valley. They won't tell you the truth.

The choice is easy. You decide: The Big Dig or the Big Rig?

Bob Kelley
Tewksbury

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Flexible schedule, experience required.

Interested applicants please apply in person at Wilmington Health Care Center, 750 Woburn Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, or contact Debbi Camilleri, DNS, or John Tryder, Administrator for nursing information and contact Kimberly Smart, BOM for medical records information. EOE.

WILMINGTON HEALTH CARE CENTER

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Special holiday hours. So our staff may enjoy time with their families, we'll be closing early on the following days—

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\$775,000



Wilmington

Outstanding two year young Colonial home with full farmers porch, eight rooms, three plus bedrooms, two full and one half bath located in small development, neutral decor, fireplace, center island maple kitchen, mstr ste with walk-in closet, finished 3rd level, garage.

\$524,900



Tewksbury

Spacious & well maintained Cape situated on acre lot with river access featuring nine rooms, two plus bedrooms, two baths, formal dining rm, eat-in kitchen, sun room leading to private picturesque yard, first flr family rm & study, central air, hardwoods, new heat.

\$389,900



Tewksbury

Well maintained oversized Ranch located in North Tewksbury on well manicured lot featuring nine rooms, four bedrooms, 1.5 baths, cherry cabinets, ceramic flrs, bow windo, built-ins, hardwood floors, heated three season porch/greenhouse, security system & more.

\$409,900



Tewksbury

Pride inside & out of this newly listed Gambrel, entertainment size fireplace family rm, oak cabs, eat-in kit, fml din rm w/hrdw flrs, four bedrooms, two baths, two car garage, sec sys, cen air, priv 1.5 acre in great area.

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Located in Central Square this Colonial offers ten rooms, five bedrooms, four baths, three fireplaces, 1st floor library, den & living room. Beautiful gumwood woodwork, hardwood flrs, flowing staircase & two level foyer, built-in china, 3rd level au pair suite.

\$750,000



Tewksbury

Spacious four bedroom Garrison in North Tewksbury location offering eight rooms, four bedrooms, 1.5 baths, custom oak cabinets in kitchen & baths, lower level family room, fireplaced front/back living rm, attached breezeway & two car garage, vinyl exterior.

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Billerica

Completely remodeled Dormered Cape with seven rooms, three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, master bedroom on 2nd level with 12 x 13 walk-in closet, first floor laundry and two bedrooms, interior freshly painted, one car attached garage, town sewer.

\$319,900



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Tewksbury Senior Topics

A message from Linda Brabant, the Director of the Tewksbury Senior Center...

Classes break for holidays

TEWKSBURY - A note of thanks is extended to the Silver Tones Band for providing such a delightful holiday concert at the Senior Center last Friday. On behalf of the Council on Aging and its staff, a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah is wished to all. Those traveling on the Foxwood day trip this coming Monday, December 29th, are reminded that the bus shall depart at 7 a.m. sharp.

We also remind those seniors taking classes at the Senior Center that most classes will break for the holiday season except the exercise programs. All exercise programs on Monday and Tuesday will be held. Zingo will also be held on Tuesday afternoon.

You may want to note the following dates that instructed classes will resume:

January 6, 2004 Woodcarving (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.
January 7, 2004 Stained Glass (Wednesday) 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
January 8, Embroidery Class (Thursday) 9:00-11:00 a.m.
January 8, Drawing (Thursday) 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
January 9, Yoga (Friday) 1st Class 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
January 9 Yoga (Friday) 2nd Class 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
January 19, HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Day

January 21 Quilting (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.
January 26 Bunka (Monday) 1:00 p.m.

Tap Dancing will resume at a later date; we will post this date when we know it.

The following day-trips are being offered for the winter months to help you avoid "cabin fever."

Our first day-trip for the new year will be to the Amesbury Playhouse for the luncheon matinee of *Man of LaMancha* on Wednesday, January 21. The cost of the ticket for this trip is \$30 and includes lunch with three delicious menu choices and the show. Please don't delay in purchasing your ticket. They are selling quickly.

On Friday, February 13 we have tickets to see "The Love Show" at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley, MA. Tickets cost \$44 and include transportation, three luncheon choices and the matinee performance. Tickets are on sale beginning Monday.

Best of Times presents the "Irish Cabaret" on Wednesday, March 10 at the Venus de Milo in Swansea, MA and we have tickets for this performance. Tickets are on sale Monday for \$59 which includes transportation, lunch choice and the show. Have a good week and God Bless America.



Wilmington Library Notes

by Christina Stewart

Ideas for the holidays

Try one of these affordable activities available at the library during the holiday vacation week:

- Borrow one of the library's passes to a Boston area museum. The library has passes to the Boston Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium and the Children's Museum, plus others. If you have never been to the Decoroda Museum in Lincoln or the Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, visit one of these two for some modern art or prehistoric history. Call the library at 978-658-2967 to reserve any of the library's passes.

- Check out up to ten videos and two DVDs for one week at no charge. Great to have on hand in case of a blizzard.

- Check out a copy of the audio book of *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo. It's Wilmington's choice for "Wilmington Reads, One Book, One Community," a town-wide reading program. Listen to it during that long holiday car trip and you will be there before you know it.

- Check out one of the beautiful Christmas picture books on display in the Children's Room and read it aloud to your children.

- Try a new soup recipe from *Saved by Soup*, more than 100 low-fat soup recipes to eat and enjoy every day by Judith Barrett. (641.813 Bar)

- Visit the library. Relax and read a magazine, or browse through the new books. Ask the library staff for a recommendation for a good read.

- Check out one of the many

new travel books recently received by the library - many with affordable ideas for travel near and afar. New to the travel collection - Recommended Bread and Breakfasts: New England by Eleanor Berman. (917.4 Ber)

PageTurners

PageTurners, the library's monthly morning book discussion group, met on Tuesday, December 16th to discuss *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch. The group gave this book five thumbs up and two thumbs down. *Atonement* by Ian McEwan will be discussed on January 20th. Copies are available at the library. If you like to read and enjoy discussing books and ideas, why not try one of the library's book discussion groups in 2004! New members are always welcome. Bookends meets in the evening on the first Thursday of the month with the next meeting on January 8th.

New Sports Videos

The library has just received the following new instructional sports videos

Skills and Drills Volleyball Beginning
Skills and Drills Volleyball Advanced
Skills and Drills Basketball Advanced
Skills and Drill Soccer Advanced

Holiday Schedule

The library will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24th. The library will be closed on Thursday December 25th,

Christmas day. The library will be open Friday, December 26th and Saturday, December 27th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you for holiday decorations

Thanks to Shirley Hadfield, Friends of the Library Decorating Chair, for her time and talent in decorating the first floor of the library for the holiday season. As Decorating Chair, Shirley provides seasonal decorations throughout the year that help brighten the library.

Also, thanks once again to the Garden Club for the wreaths on the front of the library.

Children's Book Discussion

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Roark Dowell, winner of the "Edgar Allan Poe Award" for best children's mystery novel of 2001, was chosen by kids in grades 4 and above for their book discussion to be held on Friday, January 9th at 3:30 p.m. Dovey, a mountain girl of North Carolina, speaks her mind and makes no secret about hating Parnell Caraway, but when Parnell turns up dead she finds herself on trial for murder.

All are welcome to drop-in for a lively and informal discussion.

Upcoming Teen Events

Don't miss the library's second Lord of the Rings Festival for grades 6 and up on Monday, January 5th at 7pm. Teens are invited to come celebrate the release of the film *The Return of the King*. Test your knowledge of the trilogy in *Lord of the Rings* jeopardy! The fun includes a LOR bookmark design contest and the LOR costume contest. Refreshments will be served. Everyone who attends will be entered in the door prize drawing. (Prizes provided by the Friends of the Library)

Teen Book Discussion Group

All students grades 6 to 12 are welcome to come to the following teen book discussion groups. The Teen Book Discussion Group on Friday, January 23rd will talk about *Firesong* by William Nicholson (Book 3 of the *Wind on Fire* trilogy).

The first meeting of the library's new Teen Book Discussion II will be held on Friday, January 30th at 3:30 pm. The first title, *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis, was selected by a seventh grade student at Wilmington Middle School. The story is set in Afghanistan and deals with the plight of women in that country. Extra copies of the both books for these discussions are available at the library. Come and talk about what you liked or did not like about the book. Enjoy refreshments and a chance to win the door prize provided by the Friends of the Library.

Dog licenses available

TEWKSBURY - Year 2004 Dog Licenses are now available.

Tewksbury Town Clerk Elizabeth Carey reminds dog keepers that the year 2003 license for their dog(s) will expire Wednesday, December 31, 2003.

The fee per dog, male, female, neutered or spayed, is \$10 annually.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A current rabies certificate must be presented before a dog license may be issued, unless this office has a current rabies certificate on file.

For your convenience, you may prefer to license your dog by mail, provided that you include the license fee, a current rabies certificate and a stamped-self addressed envelope and mail to: Town Clerk, Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA. 01876

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WILMINGTON \$589,900



Still time to chose colors!! New Construction. Quality built 4 bedroom Colonial with 2 1/2 baths, attached 24x24, 2 car garage with finished loft, walk-up attic, fireplace, gas heat, central air, whirlpool tub and shower in master bedroom and sliding patio doors to deck off breakfast area. All on a 1/2 acre lot.

WILMINGTON \$339,900



Spacious and well maintained home featuring: gleaming hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen with a generous amount of cabinet and counter space and new flooring, dining room with sliders to sun-filled 3 season family room overlooking the wooded back lot. Close to Rte. 93 and commuter rail.

WILMINGTON \$699,900



Absolutely gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath Contemporary Colonial in a cul-de-sac of beautiful homes. Custom upgrades throughout, gas fireplace in family room off a custom kitchen with center island, formal dining room and living room, finished lower level with in-law potential.

WILMINGTON \$349,900



Over 2,000 s.f. of living space in this very well maintained Cape. Enormous, updated oak kitchen leading to family room with fireplace, dining room, 4 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. Updated full bath with jacuzzi, newer 20x18 deck. Minutes to commuter rail.

N. WILMINGTON \$299,900



3+ Bedroom Ranch situated on a level fenced lot and minutes to Rte. 93 and train. Hardwood floors, fireplaced living room, side street, sliders to deck, vinyl siding, new septic system prior to closing.

WILMINGTON \$289,900



This 8 room, 3+ bedroom Colonial features: upgraded electrical, 2 full baths, security system, ceiling fans, vinyl siding and is situated on a gorgeous 10,000 s.f. lot on dead end street. Minutes to Rte. 93



Cathy Salvaggio



Stephanie Doucette



Susan Barrasso



Evelyn Small



Cheryl Tavares



Barbara Calder



Audrey Kelly



Regina Ugolini

Ralph and Maureen and the
entire Starwood staff wish you a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New year!

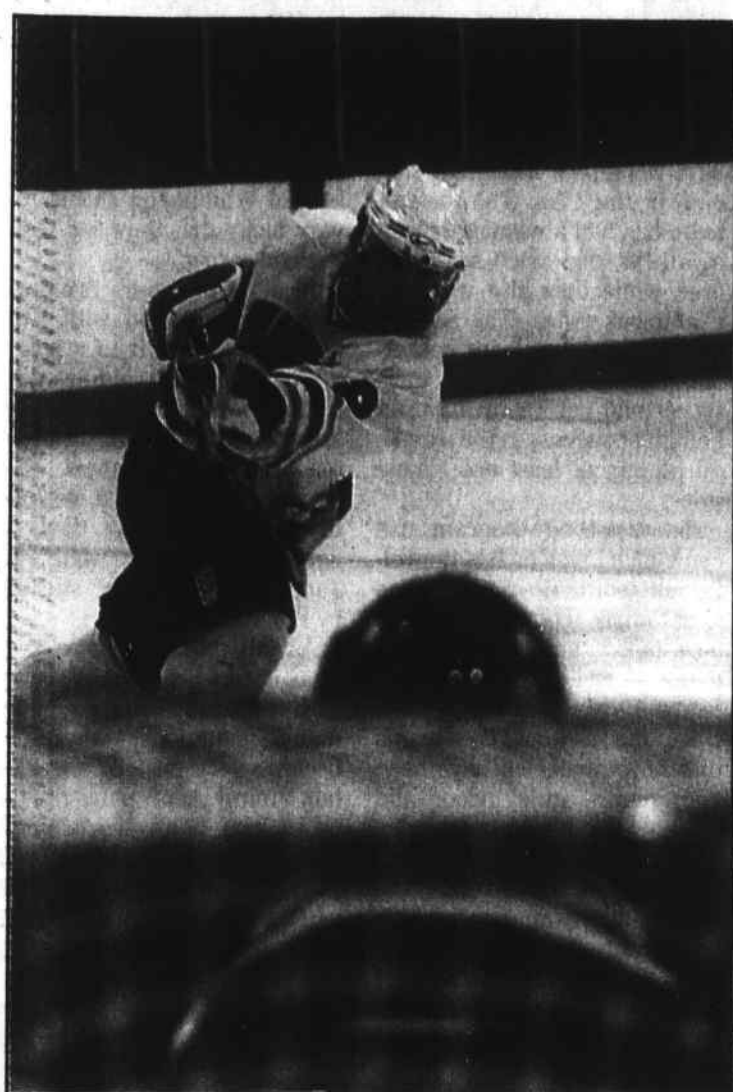


E-MAIL: JAMIE@YOURTOWNCRIER.COM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2003

First line scores five goals in one period

Hockey team in an offensive mood



Wilmington High's Ed Tucker unleashes a wrist shot during Saturday's win over Newburyport. (photo by Brownphoto.com).

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

Coming into the season, Wilmington High boys hockey coach Steve Scanlon was concerned with the team's defense. Through two games, that concern has eased up a bit, after the 'Cats defeated North Andover, 4-1, and Newburyport, 6-2, in a pair of league games to open the 2003-'04 season.

On Wednesday night, the 'Cats top trio of Tony Resendes, Ed Tucker and Dave DeMango combined for two goals and an assist, but on Saturday afternoon in the home opener they combined for all six goals and 10 points in all, including being a part of five second period goals.

On the other end, Wilmington outplayed NA from start to finish in the opener, excluding a handful of third period penalties, and against Newburyport the 'Cats held a very convincing 40-15 edge in shots.

"I thought we played three good periods," said Scanlon. "It was a little frustrating in the first period having chances and not being able to score."

"But a year ago I think if we were down 1-0 that we would start to get unsettled. I thought we should good poise and a lot of maturity and we came out in the second period and went to work. We stayed

in the system, stayed out of the (penalty) box as much as we could and played pretty good in our own end. We did some better things defensively and I think the defensemen aren't trying to do too much and all in all they did a pretty good job."

Wilmington trailed 1-0 after the first period which saw them outshoot the Clippers, 12-5. In the second period it was all Wilmington, all the first line and especially Tony Resendes. It certainly has the makings for great arguments, but it's hard to say that Resendes isn't the most exciting player to watch for the 'Cats in a long time. Certainly his speed, finesse, tremendous skating ability and the way he creates so much on the ice by his efforts alone, make him such a standout.

On the power play just two minutes into the second period, Resendes sent a pass to DeMango who came streaking down the left wing boards. DeMango came in on the outside of a 1-on-1 with a Newburyport defenseman, and the play was broken up with the puck going behind the Clippers net. Resendes never stopped skating after dishing off the biscuit, and came circling around the net, picking it up the loose puck and putting it home inside the left hand post to tie the game up at one.

Two minutes later the 'Cats were back at it. Tucker sent a pass from the right hand corner to the point to Ray Bennett. He took a slap shot which missed the short side of the net, only to go up in the air and bounce to the left of the netminder. The puck came up off the boards and Resendes was on the back post to push it home.

Off the ensuing face-off, just eight seconds later, DeMango came streaking through the middle of the ice and beat goalie Rich Dellaria with a high wrist shot underneath the crossbar for what became the game winning tally. With 3:37 to go in the period and 13 seconds left on killing a Wildcat penalty, Resendes picked up a loose puck in the neutral zone, came skating into the Newburyport end with it. As he entered the zone, he beat a defender but then got high stuck, yet stayed balanced on his feet and beat Dellaria with a wrist shot making it 4-1.

About 90 seconds later, Resendes was back at it as he gave a heads up pass ahead to DeMango up on the boards. He then sent a pass across ice to Tucker, who came into the zone on a 2-on-1 break. However, he started to over-skate the puck and as he did that he didn't panic. Instead he started to slow down his momentum and he got every-

thing on his back leg as he unleashed a cannon of a slap shot to the top corner for the team's fifth goal in a span of 10:16.

DeMango added the sixth goal in the third period. Goaltender Andy Berian made 12 saves and allowed one goal before being lifted for a break for back-up Tim Anderson, who made two saves and allowed a goal in the final six minutes of the game.

Resendes ended the game with three goals and two assists, while DeMango had two goals and three assists and Tucker had a goal and a helper. Resendes, DeMango, Joe Giordano and Zach Wilkins netted the team's four goals against NA. Wilmington played without Giordano and Wilkins on Saturday due to an illness and a knee injury.

The 'Cats will get back into action this weekend in the annual Haverhill Christmas Tournament. Wilmington was suppose to play Central Catholic in the first round on Saturday, but the Raiders pulled out in the last minute to participate in a New Hampshire tournament instead. Scanlon said that he's had several Division 1 teams interested in filling the spot, but would wait and see over the few days before making a decision.

Male Athlete of the Year next week
Due to production problems, the Male Athlete of the Year feature will appear in next week's issue.

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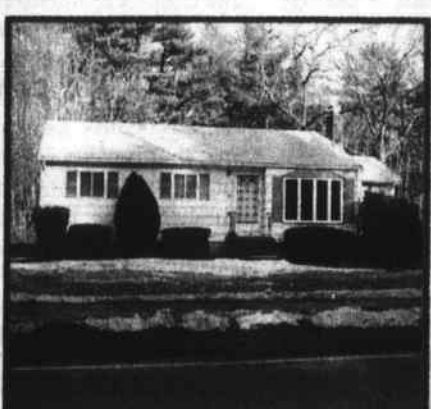
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After 24 years behind the desk Jim Gillis retires as longtime athletic director

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

In 1978, the Town of Wilmington was going through a huge transition. Larry Cushing Sr. retired from the athletic director's job after countless number of years, hours and dedication to the high school, sports programs and children of Wilmington. For one year, the town went through many obstacles as James Martin was named to replace Cushing. Martin and Wilmington never got on the right page, and he resigned on March 28th of 1979.

Over the next few months, the town had a search for the school's third athletic director. At the time, Jim Gillis was 33

That proceeded with the school committee's vote in May. Gillis was turned down 4-2 at the time as James Demos and John Brooks voted for him, but Phil Fenton, Linda McMenimen, Lester White and James Tighe voted against Gillis.

The next month, on June 30th, another vote was taken but this time two people changed their minds. White changed his mind because he talked with people, he liked the idea that Gillis was a Wilmington guy and therefore another position would open up. Fenton also changed his mind saying that he would vote for Gillis to get it, only if he agreed to earn his master's degree in Education.

At the time he was named,

for an athletic program," wrote Cooke at the time. "It doesn't take a degree to learn what Gillis knows about local athletes. It doesn't take a degree to generate new and fresh ideas. Any new programs or ideas that come from Gillis will be easier to take because people knew him. They will not always be asking each other what is this guy like while they wait for the first bungle."

At the time the athletic department seemed to be all over the place. Martin seemed to have upset a lot of people in town and wanted to do things his own way and against what had been done or expected to be done at the time. Gillis thought and hoped he would be the right man to get it back on track.

"Mr. McAulduff was a fantastic person and gentleman," said Gillis. "He was very supportive of our programs and I couldn't thank him enough for the opportunity he gave me."

Gillis added that he was surprised that the vote came down to whether or not he finished up his master's degree after already having a bachelor's degree from Springfield College as well as two graduate courses in financial and administration of physical education.

"Everything was on the master's degree," he said. "But you had to work for something."

Life behind the desk

Reflecting on his tenure as athletic director, Gillis could easily say that the first ten years at the helm was much easier than the following ten years of what he can go through the entire 90s decade. But before the hazing incident, switching leagues and user's fees came a lot of hard work, ideas from Gillis and many surrounding supporters.

During his early years as the AD, Gillis was behind many fields being upgraded including the baseball and football fields, as well as the newly renovated gymnasium. He also took a leadership role as a chairman in the Town of Wilmington's new Ice Hockey Arena which took three million dollars to build with no money coming from the Town.

"I think Jimmy added an awful lot as an athletic director," said his brother Eddie, who is now the Burlington High AD. "Look at the town and its facilities before he started and look at it now between the football field, the baseball field, the gymnasium, the bleachers and all of that. It's amazing what he has done. I think Jimmy is a very well respected athletic director and you won't find anyone better. In 25 years he made some people upset but he was always a straight shooter and you always knew where he stood."

During those years, Jim Gillis also recommended that new teams be added to the high school's athletic department. Wrestling, which he had founded, went varsity while a JV team was added. In addition, girls varsity and JV soccer and volleyball were added, as were girls gymnastics, freshmen softball and girls winter track.

"I graduated college a few years before and it was nice to come home to do things for the kids to have here in Wilmington," he said. "The first year I was here we added four percent of sports to the department. Then we went to two-and-a-half and it was just a period of cut, cut and cut but we still tried to increase the opportunities for the kids. I was looking at every avenue I could."

By the late 1980s, finances were extremely tough for Gillis. The Town had to resort to a user's fee for its athletes, while Gillis had to cut programs and try to raise what ended up to be \$205,000 from the years of 1990-'92.

"The 90s I had a lot of sleepless nights," he said. "Between trying to find ways to raise money, taxing kids and the user's fees and it wasn't easy and it wasn't fun."

Yet throughout those years, Wilmington still produced a lot of great teams, while its coaches were top notch and the 'Cats were playing in a very tough Merrimack Valley Conference. The field hockey

program had built a near dynasty under Jan Cassidy Wood who had 16 league titles in her 23 years as coach.

The track teams were guided by Frank Kelley, who had some winning teams and excellent performers year in and year out. The football team took its lumps but Ed Harrison had several outstanding players such as the Anthanasia Brothers. The ice hockey team enjoyed a trip to the Boston Garden in 1983-84 losing to formerly known as Christopher Columbus School.

Gillis was on hand for former basketball stand-out Mike Lombard and softball star Judy O'Connell Kelley and even when Jason Bere had a Wildcat baseball jersey on before going professional.

"We had a lot of successful teams," Gillis said. "We had so many great coaches here too. We had kids in softball, golf, track - a lot of track individuals who did very well."

As the 90s decade began, the toughest part of all came into an effect as Gillis then had to really watch his budget, raise money and add user's fees. At the same time, a new policy was put in that every coach had to reapply for his or her position every season and that didn't seem to put smiles on a lot of the longtime coaches. Whether it had all or nothing to do with that, coaches like Cassidy-Wood, Kelley, Bill Cullen and Sue Rowe all said good-bye to Wilmington.

"I tried to stay on top of things as best as I could," said Gillis. "We were always underfunded. Things should have always been cut out. We kept things going, we didn't cut unless we absolutely had to. Other towns have budgets of 300,000, 400,000 and 450,000 each year and right now we're at 264,000 and we provide quality programs for our kids. It was unfortunate that we had to go through some rough times and we tried to do the best we could at the time."

Throughout the 24 years as AD, Gillis also had many other duties. He was a key member for the MIAA being a director for so many sports serving as a host to countless number of all-star games, board of directors and different committees. He was involved with food pantries, drug awareness programs, not to mention his other duties within the school system of being a teacher, the transportation director and special education transportation director.

In the years of 1992-'93, Gillis was named the District A Athletic Director of the Year and had such great support for the award from people like Town Manager Mike Cairra, school committeeman Bobby Peterson, and former field hockey coach Jan Cassidy-Wood.

Over the years, Jim has been an advocate for sports for girls and women," said Cassidy-Wood in a recommendation letter. "Once AD, sports for the female athlete blossomed. He instituted volleyball, girls cross country, girls soccer, girls gymnastics and female programs in basketball and softball. Under the current budget restraints, he still maintains them all."

Throughout the years that Gillis was behind the desk, he always was trying to find new ways to stay competitive despite being a small school.

"In the 60s it was the Little Suburban League and we were always competitive," he said. "Then Haverhill, Lowell and Central Catholic were added and everyone realized it was a problem for Greater Lowell and Greater Lawrence to compete so they got out fast as they could and then there was a huge imbalance in the league. We tried to go large and small as best as we could but there's just so many 1-9 and 0-10 seasons you can take and that's not fair to the kids."

After several tried through the 90s and early on in the 90s, Wilmington finally got its wish in the spring of 1995. The following September, Gillis and then former high school principal got the news that Wilmington would be welcomed into the Cape Ann League, and their hard work would prevail.

"We didn't go in just for foot-

ball," said Gillis. "We looked at all of the sports. We felt that we had an opportunity to all of the kids not just football. We wanted the kids to be able to compete on every field, court and track they could. I believe in numbers. We can compete now and we couldn't then. Yes there's a little more traveling, but hey going to Dracut or Chelmsford on a Friday night wasn't a piece of cake either. I think it was one of the better moves to benefit all of the kids in Wilmington. I think it really sticks out as one of the better ones."

Since the switch, Wilmington as a whole has had great success in the CAL. The football team has had a winning season in all but one since switching over, while they also were co-champions twice. The softball team, ice hockey, boys basketball, boys soccer, baseball, girls soccer and golf teams have all had great success in the league, all posting at least one league title.

The wrestling program has come along way as has the volleyball team. Boys tennis has been fairly competitive. The boys indoor and outdoor track teams as well as cross country teams have done pretty well since the switch. The teams that have struggled have been girls tennis, girls indoor and outdoor track, cross country and girls basketball.

"Jimmy will certainly be missed dearly among athletic directors," said Tewksbury High AD Bob Aylward. "I remember him best for his diligence as an athletic director and the courage he had in the MVC. He was the champion voice behind the big and small school conferences. He fought so many battles. He was very innovative. He had the idea of the girls and boys basketball teams playing back-to-back. He probably did as much behind the scenes than anyone. He worked hard on district scheduling. He took his job very seriously and showed great courage. I know I miss him terribly from when Wilmington left the MVC. I do know that Wilmington got every worth of effort from Jimmy Gillis and he's a true loyal Wilmington guy who will certainly be missed."

Since the league move in 1995, Gillis has added one sport, girls ice hockey, and dropped just one, girls gymnastics, and that was because of the lack of numbers to a program which suffered every year in the win column.

"He did so many things for us," said girls hockey coach Joe McMahon. "He was so important for our program getting going. He was the one who got it all together, not only for Wilmington but he was a huge part in the growing rate of the sport in Massachusetts. He's been tremendous to us all and we owe him everything."

Dealings with coaches

Jimmy Gillis said all of the time that he only recommended coaches, and the principal, whether it was Paul Fleming or Eddie Woods had the final say. When people like Cassidy-Wood, Kelley, Cullen and Rowe vacated the scenes, which then added onto people like Jan Urquhart, Gerry Sullivan, Maureen Noone and Jim Tildsley for one reason or another, Gillis had a lot of research to do on a lot of candidates.

In the entire scheme of things, Gillis batted a homerun when he recommended people such as Mike Pimental (wrestling), Steve Scanlon (soccer and ice hockey), Mark Staffier (volleyball), Jim McCune (boys basketball), Al Duffett (girls basketball), Bob Almeida (football), McMahan (girls hockey), Paul Lyman (softball) and Sue Hendee (girls soccer) to the positions and all of those coaches are top notch.

"Any coach you hire it's more than X's and O's, it's about the individual," said Gillis. "It's more than about strategy, it's about their lives, their families what they are all about and what they have done or would like to do or how they would handle certain situations. It's always been that way for me. I tried to provide the kids with the best they could get. And I always recommend, I didn't have the final say to hire."

Steve Scanlon has coached in more games than any other coach currently on the staff since Gillis has had the job as athletic director. Scanlon took over the ice hockey team during the 1991-'92 season and went through several terrible seasons before the program has become one of the top known clubs in the state in all of Division two.

In soccer, Scanlon was named to the post four years ago when his father, Dick, was sick at the time and took a leave of absence. Steve has carried on his father's legacy of having terrific soccer teams. He said he owes a lot to Gillis and the kids of Wilmington should feel very lucky that they had Gillis in their corner.

"In all of my years I've dealt with (Jimmy) and with kids, he's never stuck it to a single Wilmington kid," said Scanlon. "Jimmy was tough, but if the kids a mistake, it was all about teaching them about life lessons. And when it seemed like everyone would then be against a kid, it would be Jimmy who would be sticking by the kid."

"As an athletic director I thought he was a great source with the MIAA. There were so many situations where it became very difficult for kids but Jimmy kept plugging for those kids. With his contacts and knowledge, Jimmy was huge for so many kids here whether it was plugging for them, or a transfer and getting all of the paper work done. Jimmy always went the extra mile so the team would be better."

"We're going to miss him. I think he was old school. He insisted the kids play hard and are good sports. Sometimes the discipline he gave was for life lessons. I got in my conflicts with him as a player on the baseball team (in 1980) and I give him the credit. I was wrong, he was right and leaving the team like I did is the biggest regret I have in sports. He taught me a valuable lesson. I don't think people understand how uncompromising the job really is. Very rarely do people come up to you as an athletic director to thank you. They are there to run you down, especially when things are bad. I think it's a thankless job."

The good, bad and ugly

Gillis was asked to reflect upon his career and so many things popped into his mind. Besides the memories of the kids, the teams not to mention headaches on budgets, meetings, fund-raising and people trying to break him down whenever they had a chance, Gillis said there were certainly more positives than negatives.

As he reflected about his many years, he had to stop and begin a long list of people who supported him over the years.

"We didn't have water and electricity out in that field and the town side of it gave us great support, especially Mike Cairra," said Gillis. "He has always been very supportive of the schools. The Police and Fire Departments and guys like Bob Stewart, the present Chief (Bernie Nally), Bobby Spencer, Bobby Shelley, the Fire Chief (Daniel Stewart) and guys like Joe McMahon, Dan Hurley, Bobby Woods - guys that I saw come through this school, and play sports and now they are on the fire department and coming back to helping us out anyway they can. Bob Palmer gave me a lot of opportunities and so many teachers and coaches."

"People like Frank Kelly, Dick Kady, George Cogan and Roger Breakey. People like Bob Dicey, Howie LeFaver were always there to help you every step of the way and, Walter Pierce and Billy Fay did a good job. There's so many thank yous I have to give."

Upon the long list, Gillis also spoke very highly about his long relationship with Ed Harrison, who is now taking over the reins as the athletic director. Harrison was the former football coach who served 19 year between being a head and assistant coach for the Wildcats and he was always known for his dedication, his loyalty to the kids, his preparation and being able to be as competitive as any team could

CONTINUED ON PAGE SP3



Jim Gillis spent the past 24 years as the athletic director at Wilmington High School. On January 2, 2004 he officially will walk out the door, as Ed Harrison takes over his position. (courtesy photo by WHS Hall of Fame Committee).

years old. He had been a coach in the system, and teacher in the system and was a Wilmington resident all of his life who bled blue and white. Gillis became one of five candidates for the job who were interviewed. He along with football coach Fred Bellissimo, Ed Woods - who was an elementary physical education teacher at the time - Methuen High hockey coach Ken Palm - who was a Wilmington guy - and North Reading's athletic director Lester Levy, were narrowed down at the top five selections.

Gillis was a candidate for the job in 1978 but didn't get it because the school department wanted him to have a master's degree, therefore they gave the job to Martin instead. A year later, he still didn't have the master's degree yet he was nominated from the group of five to the school committee.

Gillis wasn't at the meeting. He was in the process of moving from Salem, New Hampshire to Wilmington with his family. When he got the news he was caught off guard.

"I was surprised and happy," he said at the time. "Let's just say that I was pessimistically optimistic on my chances. I hope to get my master's degree in a year or so. I'm five courses away."

At that time, Gillis was a three-sport coach at WHS, and teacher and was taking four courses at Boston State College as well as starting up his own family. Former Town Crier Sports Editor Rick Cooke found it amusing that the school committee had to decide the state of the next athletic director simply because of a sheet of paper.

"It doesn't take a master's degree to generate enthusiasm



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After 24 years, Jim Gillis retires as AD

FROM PAGE SP2

be in the MVC despite having as little as 20 members on a team.

But in the fall of 1993, everything went into circles and chaos. News spread around the town, and quickly onto every television station that members of the football team were "hazed" by senior members on the team and suddenly the political wars and saga began and never ended well over a year. That forced such a turmoil within the town, while Harrison decided it was time to step down as coach.

"Eddie Harrison was a great coach," said Gillis. "He was prepared, he was a gentleman and a family man. I know how those camps were run. I know there was some criminal elements which went on. I thought we did what we had to do. We wanted to punish all of them who were involved with quote on quote hazing. Were they guilty of demeaning others, yes? Were they guilty of punishing kids? Yeah some were guilty of that."

"It was just a real bad scene."

It became political. Certainly things could have been handled differently. Things were said to the newspapers that weren't even close to being true. It turned very ugly for the whole town and people had their whole agenda's in the entire thing."

Harrison responded by saying that Gillis has always been in his corner from day one.

"Since he hired me as freshmen baseball coach he has been tremendous to me," said Harrison. "During the whole (hazing) incident he stood behind me and now the last few months he's been just super. He's been the boss for so long and I haven't had any opportunities of doing all of this and he's been like a best friend. It's amazing the stuff that comes through this office. Personally I don't know how he did it all. Half the time I'm stumped."

Gillis said he learned so much from that entire hazing incident ordeal, but what an ordeal it was. He said that throughout those ugly times and years, it seemed as if the opinions of Gillis started to sway in every

direction. He reflected on several areas with several thoughts about his tenure and what he had to deal with.

"I had a couple of opportunities to go other places, but with my roots and my kids I bled Wilmington and didn't want to leave," he said. "I just tried to deal with the situations the best I could. I had some tremendous coaches help me along the way."

"Being an athletic director in the real world is not a daily job. You have kids, you have business aspects, you have rules and regulations, you have facilities and people don't understand everything that goes on until something goes wrong and that's when they get involved."

"I think you can always do better and always learn from experience of doing the right things. If I look back maybe the last ten years something I wouldn't have done is the transportation. There were added jobs and others taken away from athletics and the town needed a system and asked me to help. It just became too much and it could never be a win-win situation."

"It's always political. I tried to make the best decisions for the kids of Wilmington. We try to make those but sometimes people don't agree. Sure there's some decisions I'm not happy with. But whether it was a coach, a discipline issue or a play in a game, everything was subject to controversy."

While the town of Wilmington was dragged through the mud during the entire hazing incident, Gillis somehow managed to stay on his own two feet. He said he just followed that tone the best he could no matter what people thought of him, no matter what issues were at stake.

"It's interesting," he said. "Everyone asks you for something and it gets out of hand. After a while you have to say no to people and they don't like it. But I think athletics is a lot like life where you have to deal with adversity. I think a true measure of a person is how they deal with adversity."

Cassidy-Wood added in her letter in 1993 just how much loyalty Gillis had to this coaches and department.

"James Gillis has conducted himself in a very positive and professional manner throughout the attacks on his coaches, players, program and personal life. His loyalty and confidence in the staff and concern for the far reaching emotion well-being of the students must be commended," she stated in her letter.

The past and the future

Gillis leaves his position in full confidence in Harrison's hands. Gillis has all of the belief in Harrison that things will be done the right way and that Wilmington High athletics will not only carry on the winning tradition, but continue to have outstanding young boys and girls and coaches representing the town he has been so accustomed too.

But before he does take his belongings out of the office and let Harrison nail up some family pictures and award plaques, Gillis added with a smile of what he plans on doing.

"My wife Karen has a honey do list and it's about 60 pages long," he said with a big smile.

"I know my dog wants to go for walks, and I know I'd like to work in the garden and do some traveling. I would also like to volunteer and drive cancer patients to hospitals. I know how important it is for elderly people. There's still some things here I'd like to help out with like a new track, some facilities and maybe new softball and field hockey fields."

Before he does start taking his dog out for walks, and enjoys more time without paperwork and countless phone calls, Gillis was asked what his fondest memory was since taking over as athletic director in 1979.

"My fondest memories were watching my own kids, Brian, Stacie and Julie all played sports here," he said. "Brian is a policeman in town, Stacie is a lawyer in Washington, DC and Julie is a mom here in town. All of them are successful and having the chance to watch them grow up here and play sports is something I'll always remember."

Kobelski, Colgate end season at National level

By LYNNE GEARTY
Sports Correspondent

On Friday, December 19 the Colgate Raiders arrived in Chattanooga, TN to battle it out against the Delaware Blue Hens for the Division 1-AA Championship Title. Colgate's history versus Delaware was not too impressive, and the Raiders were not successful in improving their record this time around. Delaware blanked Colgate 40-0.

Tewksbury resident Matt Kobelski, a fullback on Colgate, says this trip to the championship game is something he'll never forget.

"I can't think of a better way to experience my senior year," said Kobelski. "We also won the Patriot League last year and one of our goals was to take another step and go undefeated in the regular season, which we did this year. The Delaware game was bad though. We played our worst game all season and they played their best."

The last time the pair of teams met was at the playoffs in 1982, and three other times before that. Colgate has lost all four games against Delaware.

Upon entering the game on Friday, the Raiders boasted a 21-game winning streak, which is tied for the third longest in Division 1-AA history with Montana's 1995-1996 seasons. The two follow Montana's 2001-2002 seasons and Pennsylvania's 1992-1995 seasons ranked at number one with 24 straight victories.

The Raiders clinched the Patriot League Championship Title this season, with a stunning 12-0 record in their league and 15-1 overall counting the fall to the Blue Hens. Equally notable was Delaware's season record which closed at 15-1, after its Friday night victory over the Raiders.

Delaware gained its sixth national title with the Colgate defeat and its first in Division 1-AA. In 1979 Youngstown State fell 38-21 in the Zia Bowl, surrendering the national title to the Hens. In 1946, 1963, 1971, and the 1972 Delaware teams were all named small national college champions in polls.

Delaware earned the 1-AA Lambert Cup for its triumph over the Raiders, an honor

awarded to the number one team in the east. The match was the first shutout and widest point span in the 26 years of the 1-AA national title game.

Prior to the contest against Delaware, the Raiders managed success in two games during extreme weather conditions. Colgate overcame Florida Atlantic 36-24 in blazing 80 degree weather to arrive at the national title game in Tennessee. The Raiders packed another victory into their pipe over Western Illinois when a ferocious Nor'easter struck at home in Hamilton, N.Y.

Despite enduring a season ending shutout, compliments of the Blue Hens, Colgate deserves a lengthy round of applause. The small school nestled in Hamilton, NY with a student body of just about 2,700 measured up to its opponent, with a student body of over 21,000, in terms of talent on the field.

"We had finals the same week as the Delaware game, we actually took them down in Tennessee," said Kobelski. "At the same time we were studying for exams and studying Delaware's plays; it really was exhausting. The Delaware players took all incompletes on their finals before the game so they had an entire week of extra practice. I think that played a huge part in the outcome."

The phenomenal Colgate running back Jamaal Branch and Delaware quarterback Andy Hall were two of the three finalists for the Walter Payton Award, an honor recognizing the best offensive player in 1-AA during the regular season. Branch was announced as the award winner Thursday evening before the big game. He is just the second Colgate athlete to be recognized as the Walton Peyton Award winner since Kenny Gamble, who was honored in 1987. The Raider running back had an outstanding junior year. He broke four 1-AA records this season including most rushes in a season, 430, most rushing yards in a season, 2,271, most games with at least 100 yards rushing, 12, and most rushing touchdowns, 29.

Hall, a senior who transferred from Georgia Tech to Delaware two years ago, is 222-of-358 for

2,581 yards. His stats also boast 23 touchdowns and seven interceptions this season. Effortlessly, he broke Rich Gannon's school record of 201 completions set in 1986. With the loss to Delaware, Colgate finished second in the final Sports Network 1-AA Top 25 Poll. It is the Raiders' all time highest position in the poll. Others placing in the top five include Wofford at third, Florida Atlantic at fourth, and Northern Iowa ranking fifth.

An estimated 3,500 Colgate fans trekked to Chattanooga last Friday night hoping to watch their fellow Raiders dominate the infamous Blue Hens. The Hens began their relentless scoring with 7:29 left in the opening quarter when Antawn Jenkins ran for a 3-yard touchdown. On eight plays Delaware advanced 60 yards, using its spread offense to control Colgate.

In the same quarter, Blue Hen Germaine Bennett scored from the one-yard line. Delaware barely made the extra point as the ball grazed the left pole and bounced inside to the relief of kicker Brad Shushman. This left Colgate trailing 13-0 with 2:35 remaining in the first quarter.

The Blue Hens scored on the Raiders yet again just moments into the second half when David Boler caught Hall's 5-yard pass and boosted the lead 20-0. Delaware mercilessly crushed its opponent in the second half of the contest with more help from Boler who snatched a 9-yard pass from Hall. The touchdown set the Hens even further apart from Colgate 27-0.

Colgate took another pounding from Delaware with 2:52 left in the third quarter when Bennett ran for a touchdown and with 12:52 remaining in the game when Jenkins went on a 2-yard run.

"Our offense just didn't match up to Delaware's offense that night," said Kobelski. "We were making poor mistakes that we haven't made all season. Making those mistakes just isn't something you can get away with against the best team in the country in 1-AA and it cost us."

Scalzi takes home a medal

The Colonial skating teams brought home medals in the Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Juvenile divisions in what has become a significant regional synchronized competition, the Cape Cod Synchronized Skating Classic. This competition, which took place on December 12-13, attracted almost 90 teams from across New England, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Minnesota and Michigan. Each Colonial team competed against teams who typically participate in the Eastern Regional competition, in addition to several of the highly competitive Midwest teams.

The Colonial Intermediates, who are the 2003 National

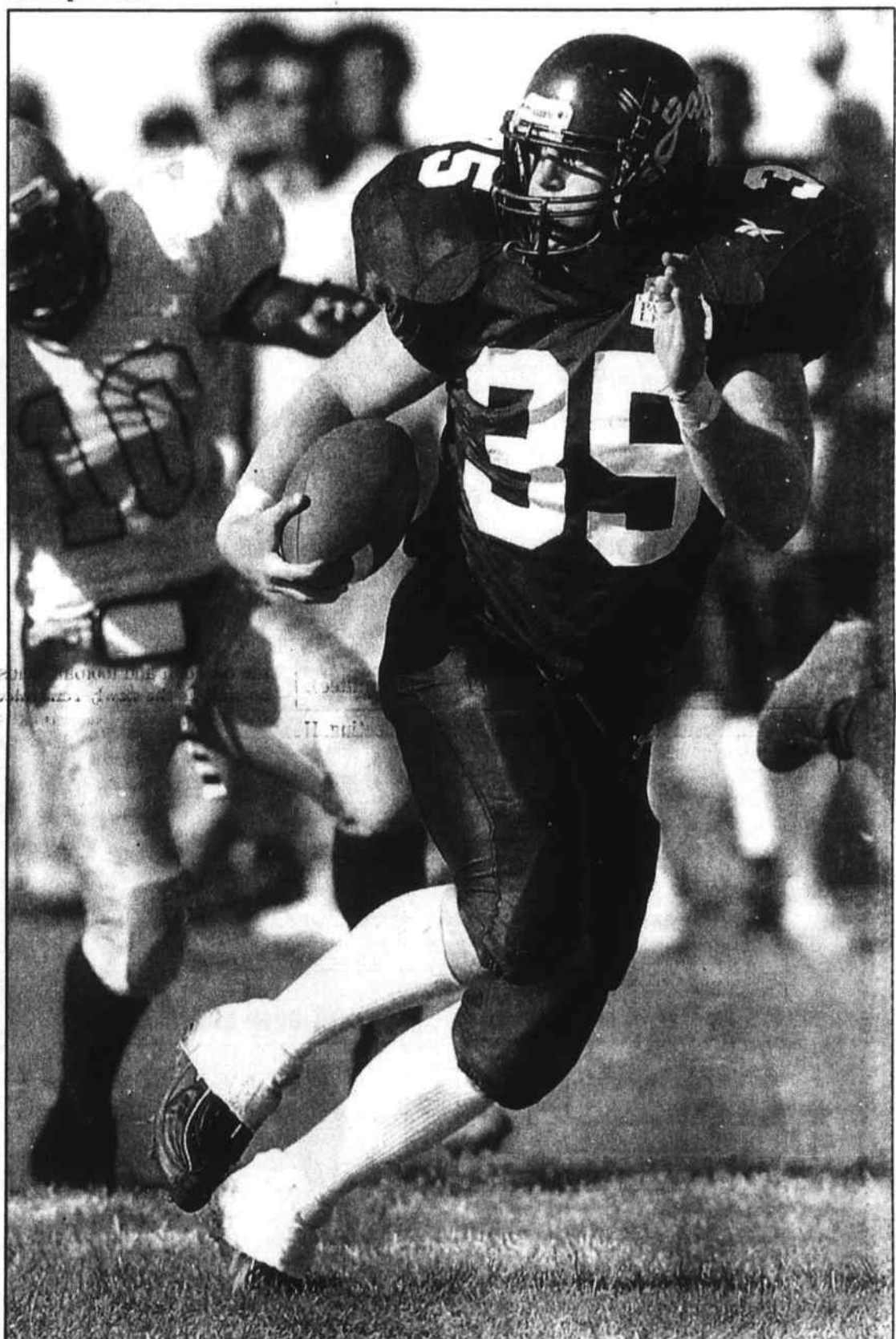
Champions in the Intermediate Division, earned a gold medal for their interpretation of Spy-themed musical selections. Flying across the ice, the Intermediates opened with a moving circle and showcased several freestyle moves, including flips, spins and illusions. In their box splice, the skaters interpreted the "spy" persona by sneaking up and chasing their enemies.

Skating on the Intermediate line is Jessica Scalzi of Tewksbury.

In the very competitive Novice division, the newly-formed Colonials Novice line received a pewter medal for their interpretation of Beatles tunes from the "Sergeant Peppers Lonely Heart's Club Band." Skating to

selections such as "Yesterday" and "Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da," the Colonials performed an energetic program that included loop jumps, traveling circles, an upbeat kickline and a challenging back lunge splice.

At the Cape Cod Classic, the Long and Short programs for both the Junior and Senior division are separated out as stand alone events. The Colonial Juniors won the gold medal for their fast and fluid interpretation of steering their sports cars along the ice while skating to "I Drove All Night," by Celine Dion. The Juniors took second place in the long program skating to the music from "Dr. Zhivago."



Tewksbury resident Matt Kobelski was a fullback on the Colgate men's football team which played in the Division 1-AA National Championship game this past weekend losing to Delaware, 40-0. (courtesy photo).

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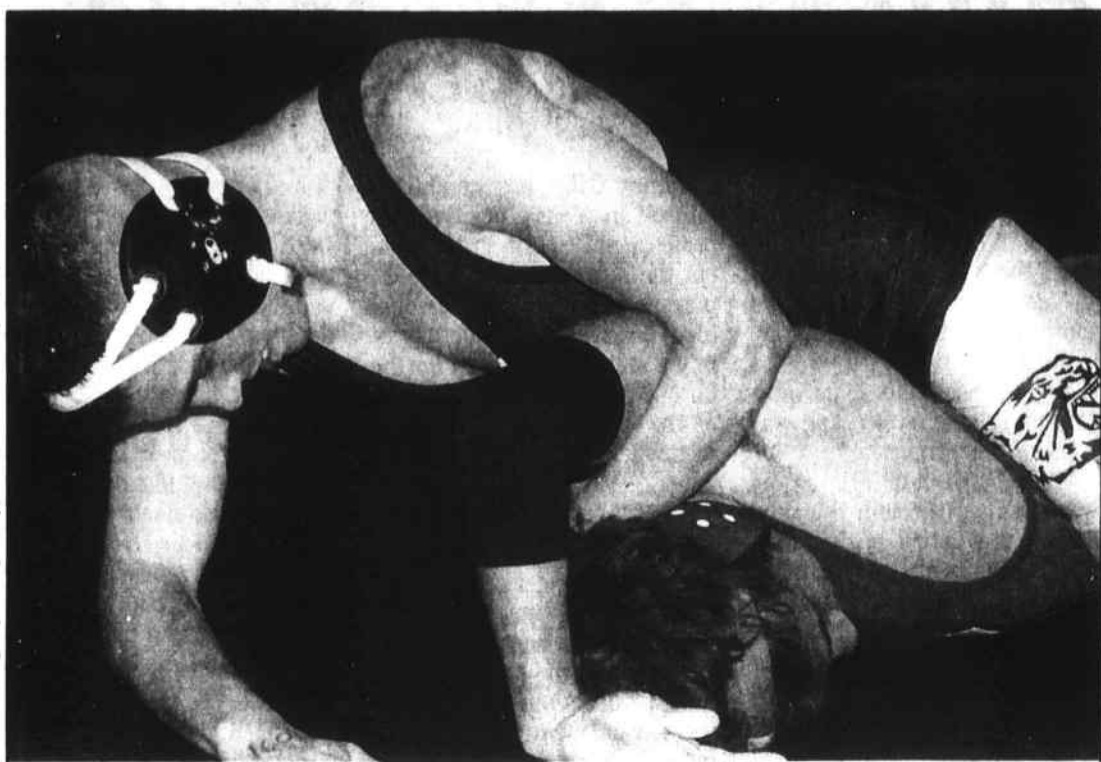
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The Wilmington High wrestling team participated in the 17th annual Sons of Italy tournament held all day Saturday at WHS. The 'Cats finished in sixth place in the very competitive 12-team tourney. Above senior Dave Paris puts a move on his opponent. Paris had a great day as he went to the finals of the 160-pound weight division. (photo by Jessica Stygles).

Wrestlers take sixth at 17th annual tournament

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

While there has been some whispers lately that the MIAA would like to change up its format for post-season wrestling, one thing is for sure that the sport continues to get better and better each year. On Saturday that was obvious as 12 teams poured into Wilmington High School gymnasium to take part in the 17th annual Sons of Italy Tournament. Several state contenders such as Dracut, Weston, Shawsheen and North Andover came to the tournament which was wrapped up after about 12 hours.

Dracut won the tournament with 224 points, followed by North Andover (153.50), Haverhill (152), Weston (141.50) and Tewksbury (109) to round out the top five. Wilmington was sixth with 100 points, Shawsheen was 8th with 87 and Minuteman Tech, coached by former WHS star Brian Tildsley finished with 52 points.

"I think this was such a positive tournament," said Wilmington coach Mike Pimental. "We had some tremendous competition here and this is always a lot of fun. We want to thank the Sons of Italy for all of their support for not only this year but the previ-

ous 16 years. We also want to thank the Friends of Wilmington wrestling and the Booster's Club for all they did to make this a successful tournament."

Shawsheen's John Pimental was the lone individual champion from the three teams as he won the 189 pound class with a 8-4 win over North Andover's Corey Tierney. Teammate Paul Callahan, as well as Tewksbury's Chris Byrne and Wilmington's Dave Paris and Anthony Almeida all lost in the finals to take second place.

After losing so much experience, talent and victories from last year's group, this year's Wildcat roster really got a boost this past weekend when two wrestlers, Anthony Almeida and Dave Paris, surprised many by earning their ways to the championship match. Almeida trailed 6-4 after the first period and almost had his opponent Anthony Loycano pinned several different times. But Loycano found a way out of those predicaments and went on to win the 140-pound match 18-4.

Paris won his first three matches on pins, at 1:50, 1:39 and 1:24, but was defeated by Dracut's Paul Barrow in the final, 14-7, in the 160-pound

class.

"Dave wrestled a really tough kid," said Pimental. "But I thought Dave wrestled his heart out. He did pretty well and kept it close and just kept going at him. I thought it was a great day for Anthony. This was the first time he was in a final and he did a real good job. He almost caught him a few times which made it exciting."

Sophomore Mike Sorrentino took third in the 112-pound class, and Evan Walsh (130) and Kenny Luongo (215) both swiped fourth places. Kevin Paris, Mike Aronofsky, Nick Gustin, Greg Boland and Chris Olson all won matches. Nathan Clapp, Jon Kelly, Matt Furlong and Dan Jamerson all wrestled tough despite losing both of their contests. Wilmington was without two of its better wrestlers in Tim Sughrue and Mike St. Aubin.

"I think we did very good considering we are so young," said Pimental. "Almost everyone won a match. We are working through some illnesses and I think once we get our full lineup together we're going to be OK. I thought Greg Boland Chris Olson had big wins today. It was great to see both of them kick off the season with wins, especially here at home."

Letter to the Sports Editor

Wrestlers say thank you to sponsors

Dear Jamie:

The Friends of Wilmington Wrestling would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous donations to the Sons of Italy Wrestling Tournament, which was held on Saturday December 20th.

These donations helped great-

ly in making our day so successful. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Jack Cushing, the many parents and all the others who worked so hard on our behalf.

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Thank You, The Friends of Wilmington Wrestling

Wilmington Sub-Varsity sports round-up Freshmen boys hoop team overtakes Manchester Hornets

By DAN DILWORTH
Sports Correspondent

The Wilmington freshmen boys basketball team won the first game of the season against Triton, then, after suffering a tough loss to Tewksbury, rebounded with a good win against Manchester. Coach Jay Keene said that the defense much better in the Manchester game; they only gave up 29 points whereas they gave up 47 and 57 points in their first two games, respectively.

The leading scorers in the Triton game were Stephen Cruz, Rich Barry and Dan Patterson. In the Tewksbury game, the top scorers were Shawn Fahey and Kyle Borsetti and against Manchester, Chris Azevedo and Shane Simbak were the leading scorers.

About the Manchester game, Keene said, "The offense played better and the defense played 100% better."

Keene hopes to get better with every game.

"We need to work hard at both ends of the floor," he said.

In practice, the most important thing, according to Keene, is to work on defensive drills and offensive skills every day. The defense is especially important because the type of defense played at the junior varsity and varsity levels is tough, according to Keene.

Next week, the boys play Tewksbury on Tuesday and Lynnfield on Friday.

JV Boys Basketball
The junior varsity boys got their season off on a good start with wins over Triton and Manchester in their first two games. Coach Tom Woods liked the aggressiveness they showed on defense, especially in the Manchester game. He says that there is a lot of talent on the team and they have worked hard in practice and have been quickly learning the game that Woods teaches.

He says that a lot of the players simply need to adjust to the

type of basketball he plays with man-to-man coverage and full court pressure. The talent is their, they just need to "find their basketball feet," as he puts it.

Nick Duggan and Greg Stewart, both freshmen, have done outstanding, giving more than what Woods initially expected out of them. Zack Mayo, a sophomore, has been steady in the first two games and has shown talent. Tom Miele, another sophomore, did a good job running the offense in the first two games.

This year's team is a young team, with four freshmen and ten sophomores. Woods says that they have already shown strong work ethic and dedication in practices. He hopes the team will be successful in the coming season, but, more importantly, he wants them to learn the system and get the kids ready for varsity.

They have the next week off for Christmas but begin the heart of their schedule after school vacation with Pentucket and Masconomet.

JV Girls Basketball

The girls played three games in their first week and won two. They beat Triton 49-20 and they beat Manchester 39-22. Their only loss came against Tewksbury 43-41.

Coach Dana Atkinson believes that all the girls played up to expectations and they all did very well. Freshman point guard Brianne Bozzella did a good job running the offense. Two other freshmen that really stepped up were Taryn Martinello and Cassie Doherty. Also, Emily Largenton and Ashley Poirier both did a very good job at rebounding.

Atkinson said that the team did well despite not getting a lot of practice in. He hopes to improve the girls, individual skills to prepare them for varsity. He wants to teach them the

type of offense and defense that they are going to be playing when they move up to varsity. He says that so far they have been very receptive and willing to learn.

Their next three games are against North Andover, Tewksbury and Lynnfield. All three, Atkinson says, will be difficult games. The keys, he believes, will be controlling the boards and playing good defense.

JV Boys Hockey

The JV hockey team played four games in a row last week after only having one practice. They lost to North Reading 3-2, lost to Haverhill 5-1, beat Methuen 5-2, and tied Tewksbury 2-2. Coach Chip Bruce said that they played his system as well as could be expected with only one practice. He said that, even in the 5-1 loss, they never quit.

The defense played well as a whole, he thought. Zack Church, Zach Champa, Derek Griffin and Pat Schultz all played on the defensive line in the four games.

What Bruce likes the most is how eager the team seems to be to learn. It is a young team that really wants to improve. The sophomores, who are playing second season on the JV team, are helping the younger freshmen as well. The team as a whole is having fun, which makes it easier to learn.

Bruce says that the most important thing is to learn the system. He says that when a player is on the ice, there are certain places he needs to be at certain times and that is what he will be trying to teach the players at practice.

Unfortunately, the team only has one more practice before their next six games. After Christmas, they play Triton, Lynnfield, Amesbury, Chelmsford, Triton again, and Andover in a span of eight days.

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'Cats take Tewksbury to end, but fall to Manchester

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

Last year Al Duffett couldn't figure it out. There was one game when his Wilmington girls basketball team took on perennial Division 3 powerhouse Newburyport and played them extremely tough losing by a handful of points in their best game of the season. Shortly thereafter, the 'Cats lost to Hamilton-Wenham by about 20 points after beating them by a dozen points the week before.

This past week he was again scratching his head. On Thursday night, in the team's home opener, the 'Cats played their best game under Duffett losing to what probably will be one of the better Division 2 teams in the state in Tewksbury, who was coming off a huge come from behind win over a very strong Division 1 club in Lowell.

But the following night after losing to Tewksbury, 59-50, the 'Cats lost to Manchester, 46-40, which puts them at 1-2 thus far.

"I thought we outplayed Tewksbury," he said after the game. "The kids never quit and they are just such a great group to work with. I thought defensively we were pretty good but to score 50 points against these guys is tremendous. The thing that hurt us was free throws. We finished 4-for-17 and they were 19-for-25 and that was the difference. I thought the kids did great. They were very competitive."

The following night, Duffett said between several of his big players getting in foul trouble, an injury and missed timely shots was the difference in the loss on the road against Manchester.

"We had a mental lapse at the end of the first half when we let a girl dribble past our entire

team and score which cut our lead from six to four," said Duffett. "We played in a very small gymnasium and in the second half, Manchester went to this crazy defense where they were overplaying on the weak side and we should have been passing to the strong side but we couldn't do that and we couldn't get the ball over half court. Manchester went up by 14 before the girls understood how to break it."

"We got back into the game and we were down by two with 40 seconds left but we just couldn't pull it out. But we had some real good positives in the game. We shot 35 percent from the floor and we were 9-for-12 from the free throw line which was much better than Tewksbury."

The contest against Tewksbury was the best performance from the 'Cats since Duffett took over as coach. The 'Cats got good production from everyone who went in, worked the ball around very nicely down low and really executed with several big baskets.

Senior co-captain Bryanna Moroney had her best game probably in a Wildcat uniform as she ended the night with 20 points and 18 rebounds. Tewksbury tried to close in down low on her and make the outside game beat them and it almost did. Junior Lani Cabral-Pini nailed two treys within 24 seconds to cut a 9-point deficit to five with a minute to go. From there it was a free throw game and Tewksbury prevailed with the hard earn win.

"Coming here and winning is never easy," said Tewksbury coach Pat McAndrews. "We didn't have an answer (for Moroney). She had a lot of touches in the first half, didn't have as many in the second

and we still couldn't stop her. We're going to have problems this year if we don't improve defensively. I'm very concerned with that right now."

Just five minutes into the game, Tewksbury took a short lead back from Wilmington after Courtney O'Brien's off balance drive and free throw was good putting them up 6-4. From there, Tewksbury never relinquished the lead. They led by five at halftime and opened it up to 17 with 7:50 to go as Sarah Boudreau nailed her fourth consecutive shot putting the Redgals up 42-25.

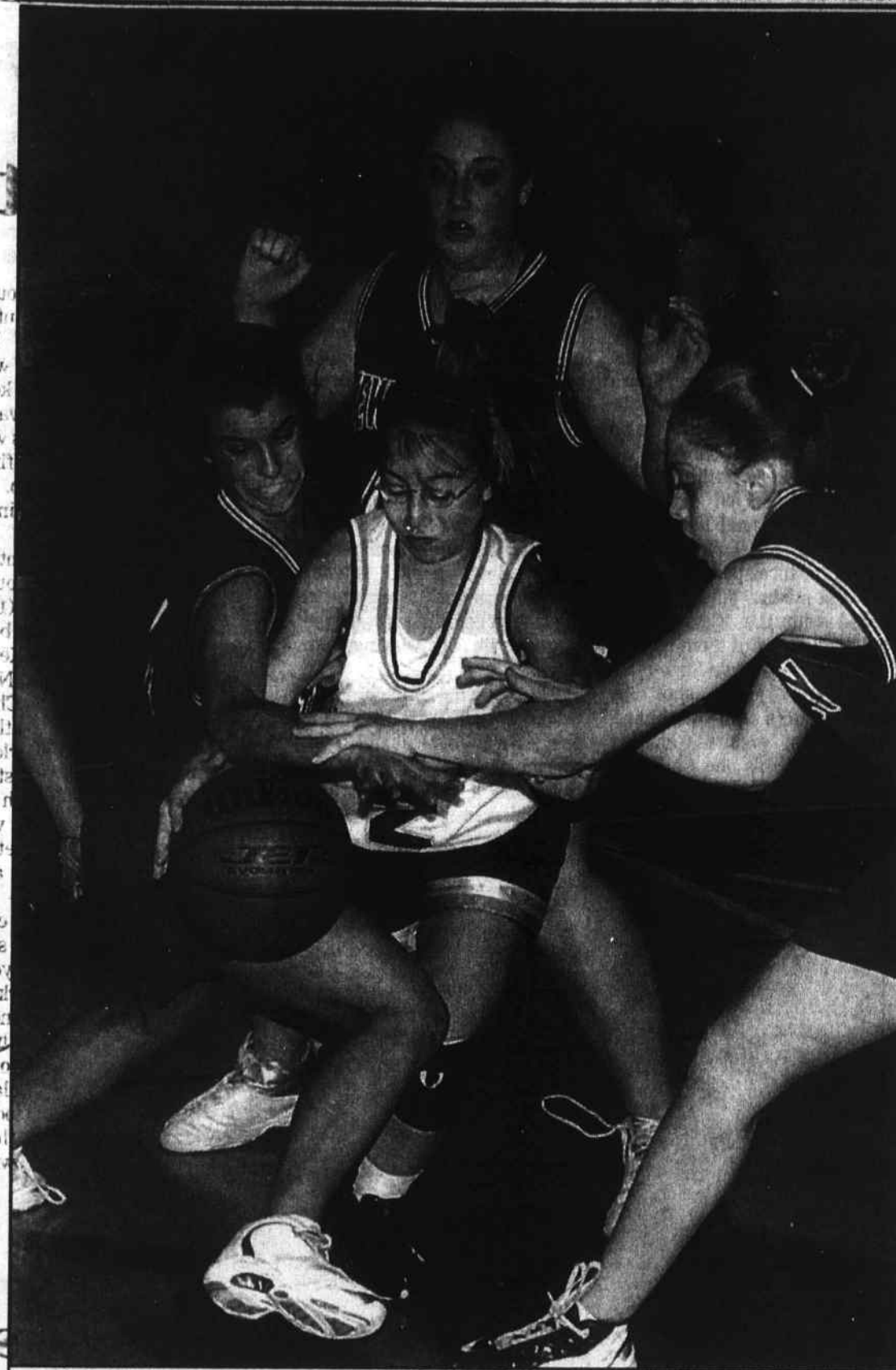
But Wilmington didn't go away. Instead they stayed in the game. In the last seven minutes, Moroney scored six different baskets from inside, or posting up or on put backs, but during that time Wilmington went 3-for-8 from the free throw line.

Cabral-Pini had a strong game with 13 points, and freshman Ashley Vitale pumped in 6 points and added 10 boards. Moroney, Cabral-Pini and Vitale combined for 39 of the team's points as well as 32 of the team's 38 rebounds. Sophomore Megan Godding chipped in with 5 points and 5 rebounds.

Tewksbury's Courtney O'Brien (21 points) and Lindsay Cullity (19) had big nights combining for 40 points. Liz Mucica also had a nice performance with 7 points and 11 boards, while Boudreau scored all 10 of her points in the second half.

The two teams will meet up again on Tuesday, December 30th at Tewksbury High beginning at 7:30.

Against Manchester, Moroney led the way with 11 points and Vitale also was in double figures with 10.



Wilmington High junior point guard Lani Cabral-Pini tries to avoid Tewksbury's Courtney O'Brien and Sarah Boudreau during last Thursday's loss at home. (photo by Brownphoto.com).

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Francis J. Mearis, Jr. to First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, dated January 26, 2001 and recorded with Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 11330, Page 296 of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., as Trustee for registered Holders of Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2001-B, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2001-B, without recourse is the present holder by assignment, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 20 Grand Street, Wilmington, Massachusetts will be sold at a Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on January 8, 2004, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Wilmington, Middlesex County, Ma. being lots numbered thirty five (35), thirty six (36), thirty seven (37), thirty eight (38), thirty nine (39), forty (40), forty one (41), forty two (42), forty three (43), forty four (44), forty five (45), forty six (46), on a plan of land known as Independent Park, by Dana F. Perkins, Civil Engineer, May 12, 1917, and recorded with Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 34, Plan 44.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 201 Chelmsford Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824-2307, c/o Sanjit S. Korde or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee.

Other terms to be announced at the sale. Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., as Trustee for registered Holders of Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2001-B, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2001-B, without recourse, present holder of said mortgage, its attorney Sanjit S. Korde Korde & Associates, P.C. 201 Chelmsford Street Chelmsford, MA 01824 (978) 256-1500 3692 12.10.03, 12.17.03, 12.24.03

Velardo, See named All-Scholastics

Wilmington High senior Rachele See and junior Kevin Velardo were named to the Boston Herald All-Scholastic teams which will appear beginning this weekend in the upcoming Boston daily papers. Velardo, who was the top medalist at the sectional and state meet in golf, is a two-time selection. Velardo was also named the Lowell Sun's Golfer of the Year.

See, who was voted the Cape Ann League Player of the Year in girls soccer, is named for the first time. She was an all-conference defender, who also recently played in the Eastern Mass. All-Star Game. She was also named to the Lowell Sun girls' soccer all-star team.

Congratulations goes out to both student-athletes.

- Jamie Pote -

LEGAL NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
PROBATE OF COPY OF WILL ADMINISTRATION WITH THE WILL ANNEXED WITH SURETIES
MIDDLESEX, SS DIVISION
DOCKET 03P2528AA
Estate of Carl I. Parker, also known as Carl Irving Parker, Junior
Late of Wilmington
Date of Death 8/6/98
In the County of Middlesex
NOTICE

A petition has been presented in the above-captioned matter praying that a certain instrument, purporting to be a copy of the last will of said deceased may be proved and allowed and Valerie Hobson, of West Newbury, in the County of Essex, be appointed administratrix with the will annexed of said estate.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Cambridge, on or before 10:00 in the forenoon on January 14, 2004. In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return date (or such other times as the Court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

Witness, Beverly Weinger Boorstein, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, the tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and three.

12.24.03 John R. Buonomo

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON



PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M. G. L. Chapter 41, Sections 81-F and 81-G, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 at 9:30 p.m. in Room 9, Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA on the application of Mr. James Diorio, 10 Patch's Pond Lane, Wilmington, MA. 01887, seeking relief from the required roadway improvements for construction of a single family home for property located at Map 27 Parcel 5A, 5A Meadowbrook Road, as shown on the plan entitled: "Lot 5A, Meadowbrook Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts." Dated: July 28, 2002, and last revised September 23, 2002, Scale: 1" = 40', Engineer: Steven R. Chouinard, Vannase Hangen Brustlin, Inc., 101 Walnut Street, Watertown, MA. 01880

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning and Conservation Department, and may be inspected during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated.

3709 Michael Sorrentino, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board
12.24.03, 12.31.03

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON



BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road on January 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

Case 1-2004 Jordan V. Ally Map 48 Parcel 45
Seeking a determination under sect. 6.1.2.1 of the Wilmington Zoning Bylaw that a proposed alteration to a nonconforming structure does not increase any portion of the nonconforming nature of the existing structure (existing lot has insufficient area, front and side yard setback proposing to remove existing 8'x8' sunroom and construct a 8'x14' sunroom meeting the rear yard setback) for property located on 5 Morse Avenue.

Case 2A&B-2004 Priscilla A. Mickle Map 43 Parcel 13A
A. Seeking a determination under sect. 6.1.2.1 of the Wilmington Zoning Bylaw that a proposed alteration to a nonconforming structure does not increase any portion of the nonconforming nature of the existing structure (existing dwelling is within the front yard setback proposing an addition meeting the setback requirements) AND B. A Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment for property located on 18 Stone Street.

Case 3-2004 Henry O. Silsbee IV Map 31 Parcel 26
Seeking a determination under sect. 6.1.2.1 of the Wilmington Zoning Bylaw that a proposed alteration to a nonconforming structure does not increase any portion of the nonconforming nature of the existing structure (existing dwelling has insufficient front and side yard setbacks proposing an addition meeting the rear yard setback) for property located on 11 Shawshen Avenue.

12.17.03, 12.24.03 Board of Appeals
3704

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the printing of the 2003 Town Report of the Town of Wilmington will be received at the office of the Town Manager, Town Hall, Wilmington, MA 01887, until 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, when and where they will be publicly opened and read.

Mark each envelope: "Bid on 2003 Town Report to be opened at 11:00 AM, January 21, 2004."

The Town of Wilmington reserves the right to reject any bid or any part thereof deemed not to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilmington.

12.24.03, 12.31.03 Michael A. Caira
3705 Town Manager

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the printing of the 2004-2005 Calendar for the Town of Wilmington will be received at the office of the Town Manager, Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA. 01887, until 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 when and where they will be publicly opened and read.

Mark each envelope: "Bid on 2004-2005 Calendar to be opened at 11:30 a.m., January 21, 2004."

The Town of Wilmington reserves the right to reject any bid or any part thereof deemed not to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilmington.

12.24.03, 12.24.03 Michael Caira
3706 Town Manager

Caira, Hurley spark Wildcats to second straight victory

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

While its extremely early in the season, Wilmington High boys' basketball coach Jim McCune realizes that his team isn't as explosive offensively as it has been in the past few years. He knows that he still has a very talented team, one that might already be better defensively than the past two seasons.

And while the results might not be the high scoring affair we are all accustomed too, one thing is for sure that this team is going to win its share of games this season. In order to pile on the wins the team is going to need a step in one area: off the bench help. That they got on Friday night.

Without sophomore Joe Herra, who was out of the line-up with an illness, Wilmington faced Manchester, a team that played zone defense. Without their outside shooter, the 'Cats had to find the magical formula

to get production from the outside, while, still try to get the ball inside to their two Big Guys, Zack Mitzan and Danny Hurley.

While starter Derek Trueira pumped in 10 points, sophomore Brian Caira gave the team a huge lift when he scored all 8 of his points off the bench during a four minute span in the first half which opened the 'Cats lead from five points to nine as they went on to win, 55-35, to improve to 2-0 on the season.

"We're going to try to wear down teams as much as we can and I thought we did that tonight," said McCune. "Caira had a big first half and he gave us a much needed lift when we needed it. He might not be the quickest guy, but he's always at the right place at the right time. He knows where to be and he can shoot a little bit."

Wilmington suffered through a tough first ten minutes not playing well at all. It seemed like the 'Cats weren't going

strong to the basket, nor were they making good decisions with its passes or shots. After Caira hit one of two freebies, he got on fire hitting two put backs as well as a three-pointer which seemed to have taken some pressure off the home town team.

The second half continued right where the 'Cats left off except it became the Dan Hurley show. The 6-foot-6 forward ended the night with 15 points and 17 rebounds, including 12 and 14 in the latter half alone. He dominated both ends of the glass and had a real nice touch down low, while he and Mitzan worked well together.

"This wasn't one of Zack's best games but he still played very unselfish," said McCune. "Hurley had a great game and he just eats the glass. Like I told Zack that tonight was Danny's night, and Zack's going to have his nights. Teams won't be able to continue to double team Zack because if

they do Hurley will be alone five feet under the basket everytime and he's going to score a lot."

Mitzan was the third Wildcat player to get into double figures as he finished with 11 points and 7 rebounds. Both Mitzan and Hurley combined for 26 points and 24 boards, while, the outside guys of Trueira, Caira and Mike Kelley combined for 21 points. Eric Ollila also chipped in with 7 boards.

With the 29-20 halftime lead, Wilmington played extremely well in the second half led by the surge of Hurley. Kelley nailed a three-pointer within the first minute, but Hurley followed with the 'Cats next 7 points, with six of them coming on nice moves down low.

After a jump shot by Manchester's Ian Memhard, Wilmington went on another strong run, this one 7-2 led by Trueira who scored on a pair of jump shots, the first one on a nice dish by Caira which gave

the 'Cats a 17-point lead with 7:24 to go and from there they cruised to the victory.

"As the game went on we started to do the high low game of dumping the ball inside and getting some shots from the outside," said McCune. "Without Joe there was a lot of pressure on the inside guys because he's a legitimate three-point threat. But we did the things that we're going to hang our hats on all season and that's defense and rebounding. We held them to 35 points and Manchester is handicapped because it's coming off of the Super Bowl game. (Steve) Adams is as good as anyone in the league and I thought we did a good job of wearing him down."

"We're playing a much different style than we have in the past. We're not going to be scoring the 70 points a game. But I think if we can hold teams to one possession and the sooner the kids believe that than we

can start playing championship ball. We're still turning the ball over too much. But we're 2-0 and we really have had to work for both of them. I think we're going to continue to get better and better."

Wildcat Notes

Wilmington has a very busy week upcoming. On Saturday and Sunday night, the 'Cats will host the annual Knights of Columbus/Larry McGrath Memorial Christmas Tournament. On Saturday, Tewksbury will face Burlington beginning at 5:00, followed by Wilmington against Revere at 6:30. On Sunday, the losers of those two games will face each other in the consolation game at 5:00, followed by the championship game featuring the two winners of the Saturday night games beginning at 6:30.

On Tuesday, Wilmington will host Dedham in a non-league game with tip-off slated for 6:30.

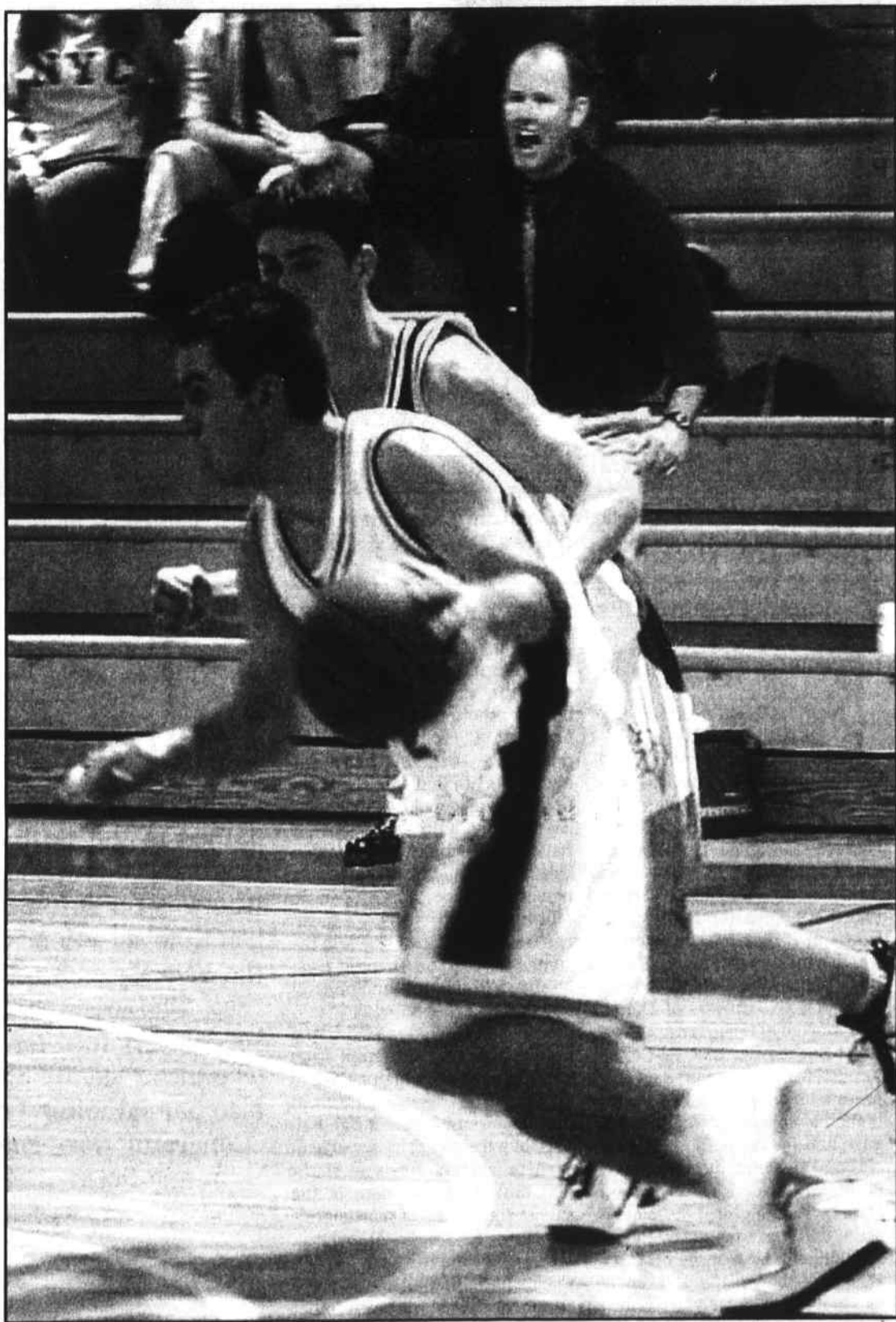
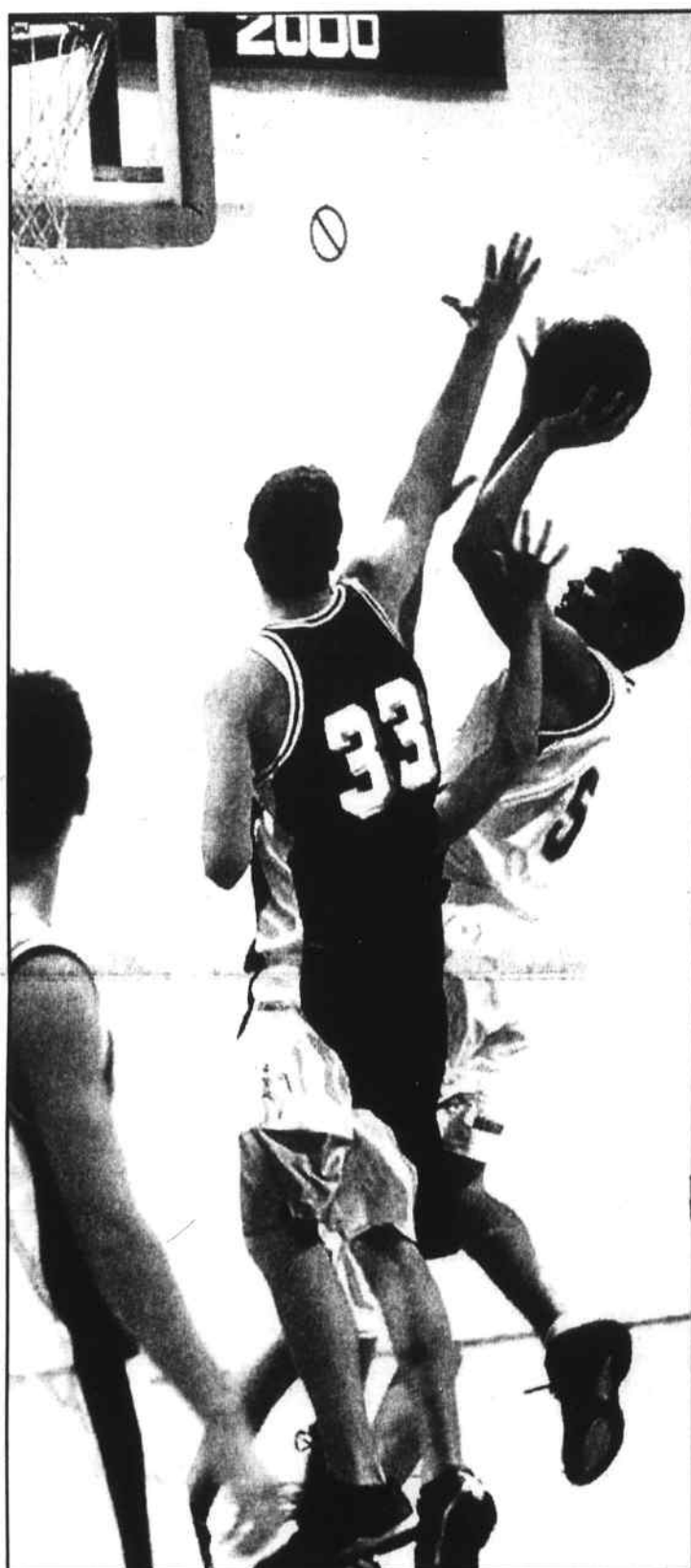
Sailboating course to begin April in Newburyport

An introductory, "Sailboating for Beginners" course is scheduled to begin on April 26, 2004 in Newburyport, MA. and will meet Monday evenings, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for four weeks. This is an annual course, which is open to the general public, sailors, and powerboaters, and no previous boating experience is necessary.

This course is designed to meet the needs of both the "beginner," who wants to learn more about sailboating and boating safety, as well as for the "non-sailing power boaters," who may want to either broaden their skills or simply get a better understanding of the "sailing crowd," their sailing habits, maneuvers, limitations, etc.

The course will include: sailboat theory and techniques; boating safety; rules of the road; basic piloting and navigation; popular knots; marine electronics; winds and weather boating terminology; and safe boat handling skills.

The instructors are all "seasoned" sailors/mariners with impressive credentials, who have enjoyed decades of assorted boating experiences, including blue water voyages, marina management, cruising to the Bahamas, etc.



The Wilmington High boys basketball team is off to a 2-0 start. On the left, Eric Ollila goes up for a shot, and to the right, senior tri-captain Mike Kelley brings the ball into the offensive zone during the team's season opening win over Triton. (photos by George Lucozzi).

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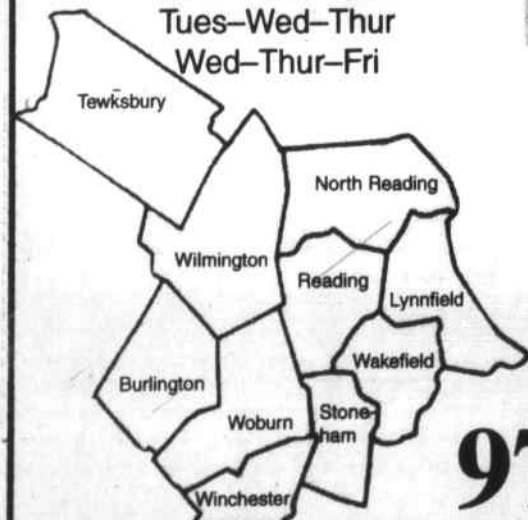
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Wilmington Midgets head to States after the District Playdowns in their respective level. Competition started on October 24th at the Everett MDC Rink and concluded Sunday afternoon with the scrappy Wilmington Team beating all 3 of their opponents. Pictured from L-R: Justin Roberts, Ryan Loring, Dan Metcalf, Rob Riccio, Alessandro Santini, Dave Griffin, Dan Silva, Jason Buckley, Bill Schultes, Stephen Tosi, Dan Spur, Warren Fitzpatrick, Dave Rizzo, and Mark Manning. Missing from photo: Brian Garret, Keith Irwin and Eric Svensson.

Wildcat basketball team showing a lot

By LOUIE CIMAGLIA

What are the components of a successful basketball team? Well, whatever it may be, the Wilmington High School Boys Varsity team seems like it has it through the early goings of the season.

This past Friday the Wildcats proved they were a force to be reckoned with when they trounced Manchester 55-35. A combination of speed, precision passing, swarming defense, and agility was too much for Manchester, and the game was one sided from the start.

Mike Kelly kept the offense hitting on all cylinders with his pinpoint passing and created turnovers on the defensive end. Zack Mitzen and Dan Hurley were powerful forces in the paint. Derek Trueria patrolled the perimeter and found the mesh all night.

And when there was a personnel change and Manchester thought they could catch a break, Wilmington's depth took over and didn't allow any room for Manchester to get anything. Kevin Pizzotti, Brian Cairn, and all the rest of the supporting cast kept the pressure on.

So, what makes a successful basketball team? There is no better example than the Boston Celtics. For instance, Bill Russell was a monster down low and led the Celts to many Championships. The Wildcats have two Russells, Mitzen and Hurley. Kevin McHale was the man who controlled the tempo and could nail the jumper. Derek Trueria fits that mold. Since it is unfair to compare anyone to Larry Bird, the likes of Mike Kelley and Eric Ollila can be the Stockton and Malone. Well, to prove a point you can't go wrong with a team that has Bill Russell, Kevin McHale, John Stockton, Karl Malone, and a bench as deep as Holiday Shopping debts.

Is this Wilmington team really this good? In the young season, its hard to say, but if these first few games suggest anything, it could be a heckuva ride. Basketball is a strategic game with athletes who can alter game

plans. The Wildcats have those athletes. The defense was relentless with takeaways that led to fastbreaks that led to points. That's a pretty good formula for victory. The Cats tore up the hardwood all night.

Similar to every other Wilmington Athletic program, they play with a passion and determination to win. When you dawn the blue and white, you are a winner. In anything.

This basketball team is the focus of attention right now on the scene, and they are carrying the torch proudly. Sure, they won't win every game, but they only thing they'll lose is the game. Not their confidence. Not their swagger. Not their pride. They'll only come up short on the scoreboard. This is the trademark of a championship team. Bend don't break. This is Wilmington's calling card. No one can bring them down as long as they're together and pick each other up.

It is fun to watch this team. They have a fun style, and they are bringing their "A" game every game. They draw crowds every game and people come to find exactly what was advertised: a team with everything a team should have - animation, liveliness, toughness, and most of all, a unique style of play only a Wilmington team could possess.

Basketball is like a book. It is a work in progress until it is completely finished. Right now, with the likes of LeBron James and others, the book is being rewritten. This Wilmington squad is a fundamentally sound unit that functions as one. They are a blast from the past in a sense that they can control a game with possession, defense that stifles offense that can light up the scoreboard, and truckloads of support from a fantastic crowd.

And it should only get better as the season progresses.

Louie Cimaglia is a 13-year-old boy from Wilmington who rides a weekly column on different sporting events in town.

Purdue wins WRBL season opener

Big 10 Boys Grade 3

Purdue 14 Mich. State 12

Purdue with great offensive efforts from Anthony Catellano, Wayne Hyun, Anthony Scurto, and Dylan Langone defeated Michigan State by one hoop. The Michigan State charge was led by Arria, Gibbons, Sweeney, and Champy with great defensive efforts by Maher, Carta, and Nicholas.

Penn St. 14 Ohio State 4

Marco Zappala, Mark Connolly, and Dan Hope led the way to bring Penn State past Ohio States whose efforts were led by Micheal Marinella, Joe Spinale, Ryan Prior, and Colin Doherty. The final was 14 to 4 Penn State.

Michigan 20 Wisconsin 12

Michigan rallied past Wisconsin with efforts from Justin MacKinon, James Wilkinson, Sam Silva and Brendon O'Connell. Wisconsin did counter with some offensive punch of their own from Jesse Peterson, Sam Barsetti, and Nick Diefenoz but fell short.

Indiana 14 Illinois 8

Indiana rolled over Illinois with outstanding efforts from Paul Olver, Dan Luise, Stephen Valenti, and Stephen Halas countered by Illinois, Tim Woods, Matt Pickett, Chris Newton, and Joe Murphy.

Big East Boys Grade 5

Notre Dame 15, Georgetown 13

Notre Dame edged Georgetown 15-13. The victors were led by Mike Gracia with nine points, Adam Kline with four and Andrew Wells with two points. Lucas Spry, Brian Halas and John Terlaga played a great all-around game for the winners. David Mello and Jon Biondo each notched four points while Mike Smith added two points in a losing cause. Joe Fitzgerald, Jesse Bozellia and Derek Queen dished out a number of assists throughout the game.

Providence 32, Syracuse 23

Providence prevailed over Syracuse 32-23. Cody O'Connor scored nine points, Matt Noble added eight points and Andrew Spurr scored eight points for the winners. Nick Marciello, James DeRosa and Nick Nearhos dished out numerous assists. Derek

O'Dea scored seven points, Ben Levine added four points and Sean Hanley tossed in three in this hard fought battle. Also playing well were Zach Copp, Kevin Murphy and Kevin Mitchell.

Villanova 24, St. Johns 23

Villanova defeated St. Johns 24-23. William Prince led the victors with 12 points followed by John Arvantis with four and Keith Lucas with two points. Brendan Brennick, Chris D'Agostino and Chris Ryan played great team defense. Derek Duggan notched eight points, Chris Frizzore also scored eight points, Mike Ametola score four and Matt McKenna scored two in this well played game. Teammates Matt Cardarelli, Mike Arria and Justin Rhodes also played an awesome game.

Big 12 Boys Grades 6 & 7

Texas 40, Oklahoma St 37

Texas second half defense led to their first win of the season. Texas was led by Tony Dredieue with 11, Lenny Colometo 9, Cory Kulacz 8, Ben Ferry 6, Tom Burr 4, and Pat Boyle added 2 points. Oklahoma St was led in scoring by Ian Sullivan with 21 points, Scott Madaylia 6, Andrew Woods 4, Matt Sullivan 4, and Matt Hogan added 2 points. Joe Warren led Oklahoma St in rebounding.

Missouri 50, Kansas 23

Missouri's hot shooting was the difference in this one. Missouri was led in scoring by Ben Stukey 12, Conner O'Riordan 12, Bill Stukey 10, Dan McCarthy 4, Brad Jackson 4, Pat McGee 2, Ryan Kennedy 2, Sean Furlong 2, and James Mara added 2 points. Kansas was led in scoring by Sean Sullivan with 14 points, Jeff Kannally 6, and Dave McNee with 3 points.

Colorado 34, Baylor 25

Jonathan Rizzo's 14 points and 12 rebounds led Colorado over Baylor.

Other scorers for Colorado included Scott Bonica 14 points, Nick Boutoures 4, and Anthony Vibert 2 points. Baylor was led in scoring by Jonathan See 8 points, Ryan Searles 7, Bill Reynolds 4,

Jason Baker 2, and Stephen Baker 2 points. Mike Chiricosta led Baylor in rebounding.

Oklahoma 21, Texas A&M 19

In a close game that came down to the wire Oklahoma came out on top. Oklahoma was led in scoring by Matt Celeste and Scott Bonish with 6 each, Ryan McCarthy 4, Tim Korajczyk 2, Christian Sanborn 2, and Steve Silva added 1 point. Texas A&M was led by Kevin Cronan with 9 points, Nolan Giroux 6, Keeghan Farnham 2, and Justin Chenevert with 2 points. Steve Doucette and John Michaud led Texas A&M on defense.

Kansas St 36, Nebraska 24

Kansas St was led in scoring by Cory Mason with 8 points, Matt Capozzi 7, Ryan Savini 6, Mark Scolari 4, Brian Flynn 4, Larry Harrington 2, and Mike Kelly added 2 points. Nebraska was led in scoring by Michael Denufrio with 10 points, Matt Hachey 8, Omar Shaikh 4, and Joe Castiglia added 2 points.

Iowa 48, Texas 24

Iowa offense was led by the hot shooting of Steve Stewart with 17 points, Dan Dellisola 7, Nick Danis 6, Tyler Whalen 8, Brian Williams 4, Dave Melkonian 4, and Joe Rastellini added 2 points. Texas was led in scoring by Tom Peppetto with 9 points, Jason Pereira 8, Brendan Fullerton 5, and Brenden Sweeney added 2 points. Ronnie Dittullo and Dylan Reed led Texas in rebounding.

NBA: Boys Grades 8-10

Celtics 52, Grizzlies 43

The Celtics downed the Grizzlies 52-43. Leading scorers for the victors were Matt Bibeau with 17, Nick Hogan with 12 and Mike Cavanaugh with nine points. Their teammates Andrew Marra, David Rak and William Crowley also played well. Dan Patterson scored 15, William Starratt added eight and Marc Grassia scored six points in a losing cause. Alan Dooley, Brett Robbins and Tom Barry also hustled on defense.

Wizards 42, Nets 30

The Wizards defeated the Nets 42-30. Jeff Youngclaus scored 12

points while Carl Lentini scored seven and Patrick Ryan added five points for the winners. Jared Waite, Steve and Robert McIsaac dished out a number of assists to lead their team on to victory.

Greg Stewart scored 15 points while Tom Miele added five and Steve Cruz scored six in a noble effort. Mike Kelley, Jon Chirichiello and Corey Groves also played a great all-around game.

Bulls 31, Cavaliers 24

The Bulls prevailed over the Cavs 31-24. Leading their team on to victory were Nick Duggan with 12 points, Rocco Puccio with 11 points and Nick Zappala with four points. Dan Evans and Ernie Mello also chipped in with key baskets. Despite the tough loss, Joe Gore scored eight points, Jesse Belding scored five and Aly Brown added four points. Steve Tello, Ryan Ruggiero and Matt Brooks played intense defense throughout the game.

Knicks 46, Lakers 45

The Knicks edged the Lakers 46-45. Leading the way for the victors were John Oliver with 22 points, Peter Rastellini with ten points and Balu Vemula with eight points. Zach Church and Pradheep Vemula played great defense for the winners. Mike Auciello score 14 points, Derek Stukey added ten points and Nick Robarge scored four in a losing cause. Mike Thomas, Chris Marcin and Alex Kittredge helped their cause by pulling down some massive rebounds.

Magic 56, Hornets 54

The Magic upended the Hornets 56-54 on a big bucket by Shane Simbeck with five seconds remaining. Shane Simbeck scored 24 points, Steve Potchner tossed in 25 and Tony Karalekas added five for the victors. Eddie Silva, Trevor Cormier and Dan Kline dished out a number of key assists. Andrew Otovic notched 19 points, Zach Foley scored 12 and Shawn Fahey added nine points in a courageous effort. Justin DeRosa, Hank Schneckloth and Matt Derian also played an inspired game.

Mite A's take on Reading in tough battle

The Wilmington Mite A team played MRYITA and Reading this weekend. The Wilmington kids

have had great practices this week. The team works hard and never sits a drill out. When this

team plays together they can beat anyone.

Sunday's game ended up with Reading coming out on top, 5-0. The Wilmington boys did their best but couldn't beat the unstoppable Reading team to the puck. Saturday's game was a different story. The boys played like a team, wingers in their lanes and the defense staying home. Wilmington struck first in the period with a goal from Shifty Rosetti with great passing from Mike Diorio and Zach Malatesta.

Wilmington kept the pressure on with a couple of goals and good passing from the Dynamic Duo of

Brendan McDonough and Brian Pickett. Next on the list was a goal from Dylan Dpnatle, Dan Luise and Shifty Rosetti. Goals were added by Zach Malatesta and another unassisted goal by the all heart kid Dan Luise. The scoring was phenomenal but the guys couldn't have done it without the great passing from Tommy Townsend and the unstoppable defense by Mike Diorio, Zachary Blanch, Jimmy Davey, Drew Foley, and Kevin Meuse.

The defense really stepped up to the plate and made the game a little boring for the great goaltender of the day, Matt Diorio.

Squirt II's face Winchester

The Wilmington Squirt II team played two defensive games over the weekend resulting in a tough loss and a well deserved tie.

First was a very good Winchester team that resulted in a 2 to 1 loss. After two scoreless periods, Jackie Mulrenan to put the 'Cats up 1 to 0 with assist going to Trevor Foley and Frankie Cerbone. Winchester came storming back and scored two goals in minutes for the final score. Goalie Nick Luise kept Winchester at bay for most of the game, but Winchester kept on coming.

The second game on the weekend, resulted in a well deserved hard fought 3 to 3 tie against undefeated Newburyport. It took bad for the Cats as Newburyport jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead after only three minutes of play. Wilmington did not quit and cut the lead to one with a goal by Brendan Munro from Drew

Cummings. Right out of the gates in the second period, Jackie Mulrenan ties the score with assists going to Mike Ciampa and Sara Alonardo. Both teams kept on threatening until Newburyport broke the tie late in the second period. Wilmington kept on pressing with Nick Pino hitting the posts and several other opportunities by the boards. Finally Sara Alonardo scored a goal on a great play.

The teams continued to press each others goalies to no avail and the final was 3 to 3. The defense of Tyler McInnis, Steven Taylor, Mike Ciampa, Gordie Fitch and Conor Brennan play great in front of Nick Luise after a shaky start. All the forwards worked hard digging in the corners and back checking throughout the game. Scott Layton and Jeffrey Goosens play great games along with the other forwards.

Middle school hoop teams swing into action

By LOUIE CIMAGLIA

On the weekend of December 12th, the basketball courts at the Wilmington Middle School has seen some fantastic youth basketball. Wilmington eighth graders played four games, and came away with three victories.

The first game was the Boys A Team. They clashed with an impressive Tyngsboro squad. The contest started out with Wilmington romp written all over it. With a ten-point lead in the middle of the first half, Wilmington didn't let up.

Matt Bibeau, Matt Brooks, Zack Fahey and Carlton Lentini lead the scoring attack. Lentini, Fahey and Matt Derian distributed the ball to the big boys in the paint. Nathan Clarkin grabbed the rebounds and kept the ball in Wilmington possession. Evan Borsetti and Jimmy Celeste also chipped in and threw in some points but shined on defense. Kevin Skinner, Joe Gore, and Chris Welch also added to the height advantage that the Wildcats clearly had over Tyngsboro. Welch and Skinner also have a nice shooting touch for paint players.

One thing that jumped out was Wilmington's overwhelming paint presence. Not only was Tyngsboro out muscled, but they were out finessed as well. The likes of Borsetti, Fahey and Lentini kept the ball flowing up court and into the Wilmington bucket. Tyngsboro managed to keep it close on a fabulous half-time buzzer beating from half court that found its way through the mesh. Nonetheless, the 'Cats were up 25-18 at halftime.

Wilmington knew this score was to close for comfort. At the start of the second half was when the 'Cats pulled away. Fahey had a nice double clutch lay-up, Bibeau sunk a two, as did Brooks, Lentini, and Gore.

The Wildcats know how to distribute the rock, in the paint, on the perimeter, and to every player in their strong suit. Clarkin, Bibeau and Brooks were unstoppable down low, and the swinging Celeste, Borsetti, Fahey and Lentini, controlled the ball and the clock. The buzzer sounded and the Wildcats held their heads up high after a 55-35 victory. The

hometown crowd was ecstatic as their team notched another victory.

Sunday, the eighth grade girls A Team squared off with Masco. The Lady 'Cats have a very similar game plan to their counterparts, but a little more flash. Alyssa Brown was a dominant force in the paint. Katie Cole was scoring the points and setting the tone on defense.

Natalie Melkonian was the strong shooter from the outside and racked up the assists. Brown couldn't be stopped. She rarely missed the basket in the first half and grabbed every rebound in the paint. Cole and Melkonian were the ones who were free resulting from the attention Brown drew to herself. Melkonian led the fast break and gave it to Cole for the easy lay-up. This was a recurring theme.

And when the baffled Masco managed to momentarily stop the trio, Krista Cavallaro, Lauren Hitchins, Nicole Nihan, Casey Godzyk, and Brooke Langone took control. Jessica Stira was unable to play because of a broken finger, so everyone else picked up the slack. Cavallaro scored, and then Hitchins threw in four more, and before you know it, its halftime with the Lady Cats up by four.

The onslaught had only begun. Cole and Melkonian scored a combined seven in the opening minutes, and then they really kicked it into high gear. The points started coming in buckets, Hitchins, Nihan, Brown and Godzyk were on continuous fast breaks, steals and rebounds kept the ball in Wilmington paws. Masco was trampled. The Lady Cats won by a comfortable 23 points. Everyone scored more than once, and everyone contributed on the defensive side of the ball.

The Wilmington eighth grade Boys B team lost an intense one at the High School amidst the snowstorm. They fell seven points short. Kevin Carter, Bobby Donaghue, Trevor Cormier, and Josh Himmel all had good games. The Wilmington eighth grade Girls B Team did win on Sunday. Pitching in on that win was Brittany Concannon, Brittany Danehee, and Casey Otovic.

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Hockey team looks for more than playoff appearance

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

The Shawsheen Tech hockey team last year had a very successful regular season last year, finishing with a 10-5-2 record and advancing to the Division 3 North Tournament. Unfortunately, for the Rams, as has been the case in recent years, they were eliminated in the first round of the tourney by Concord-Carlisle by a score of 5-3.

This year, with many key players returning from last year's squad, the Rams are looking to not only advance to the tournament as they have 27 times in coach Bill Gordon's 29 years with the program, but to make some noise once they get there.

"Making the tournament is just a baseline for us," Gordon said. "We want to advance deep into the tourney which we have not been able to do recently. We also want to put ourselves in position to win the league."

The Rams should be in decent position to make a run for the top of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference thanks to losing only four seniors from last year's squad and returning many of their top scorers. Primary among those players returning is junior center Bobby Giordano, who will be the anchor of the Rams first line. Giordano has accumulated 90 points over his first two seasons and is on pace to become one of the top scorers in the history of Shawsheen Tech.

"Bobby should be one of the best players in the league," Gordon said. "After two years of great success, we expect even more this year."

Joining Giordano on the first line will be junior right wing Kyle Browne of Wilmington and junior left wing Ron Gordon (no relation to Bill) of Tewksbury. Coach Gordon says the key to the success of this top line is their varying styles of play.

"You don't want three kids together who have the same style," Gordon said. "With these three, Bobby is the creator, Ronny is the worker and Kyle is the finisher. That's what makes them a good line."

The second line will consist of junior center John Higgins, junior right wing Cory Daniels and sophomore left wing Jason

Buckley of Wilmington. Daniels missed a lot of last season with an injury, and his return for a full year should help the Rams out a lot. Buckley meanwhile has been very impressive in the early going for the Rams.

"Jason has been great," Gordon said. "We have him playing on his opposite wing, so it takes a little adaptation on his part, but he has done a great job so far."

The third line will feature two freshmen and senior. Freshman center Dan Hannifan will be flanked by his brother, senior Matt Hannifan and fellow freshman Greg Collier.

"Dan is a very highly skilled player," Gordon said. "He's got a great shot and he sees the ice very well. This should be a very interesting line for us."

On defense, the Rams will be led by the pairing of juniors Hank Chase of Tewksbury along with Bryan Dulong.

"Hank really grew into a fine player last season and he has continued that quality play early on this year," Gordon said. "Bryan is in his third year starting for us, so he brings a lot of experience. He's a real tiger. He's a little undersized, but he's got great heart."

The second set of defensemen will feature a name that Rams football fans are familiar with, as star running back Kyle Marzeoti will take his skills to the ice. Pairing with Marzeoti will be Junior John Marizzi of Tewksbury.

"Kyle was our best freshman as a center last season, but with us needing defensemen this season he has moved back there. He kind of uses his football skills in that he is able to find an opening to get our offense going," Gordon said. "John is basically a walk on for us this season. He played as a freshman, but did not play last year. So far he has done a great job and looks like he hasn't missed a beat."

The third set of defense will be freshman Chris Philbrook and sophomore T.J. Boyle.

"They will definitely get some time," Gordon said. "They will help let us have the other two sets of defense catch their breath a little without actually losing anything."

In goal, a pair of Tewksbury natives will lead the Rams, with senior Ryan Harris getting the bulk of the time, and sopho-

more Larry Bruno also seeing some time. A pair of freshmen, Steve Leighton of Tewksbury and Joe Cardinale will also compete for time.

"Harris has looked sharp for us so far and Bruno has also looked good," Gordon said. "Since we are losing Harris after this year, it will be sort of a season long tryout for Leighton and Cardinale to earn a spot for next year."

The Rams have only three seniors on the roster. This, of course bodes well for the future of the program, but some may feel that it could be a drawback this season. Gordon, however, is not concerned about any lack of senior leadership.

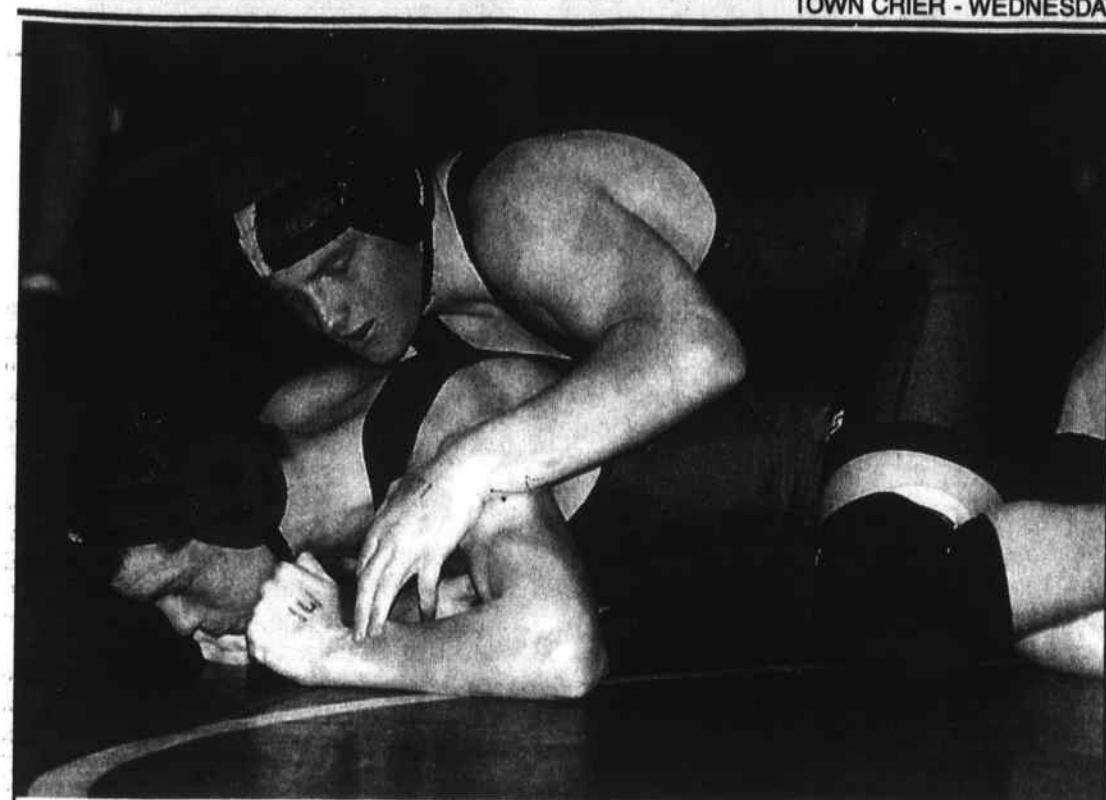
"That has kind of been the trend of our program, to have young teams," Gordon said. "It will be a typical Shawsheen team with a lot of contributions from underclassmen. Having only three seniors will not faze us. We still feel we can vie for the league title."

If the Rams are going to compete for the CAC title they will have to outlast perennial contender Tyngsboro, along with a Northeast Regional team that will combine with Malden high in putting their team together.

"If you had asked me a few months ago, I would have told you the league would come down to us and Tyngsboro," Gordon said. "But now that Northeast has combined with Malden that makes them an instant contender."

The Rams have posted a 1-2 record thus far this season, but their two losses have come to Division 1 Lexington and Division 2 Bishop Fenwick. In both games, the flu-ridden Rams were shorthanded. Of course, Gordon wished his team could have won, but he was pleased with the effort against both teams, and feels it will pay dividends later in the season.

"I fully believe that with a full squad we would have beaten Lexington and we probably would have fared better against Fenwick as well," Gordon said. "I think we probably play the toughest non-league schedule of any voke school with two Division 1 opponents and three Division 2 opponents. We try to move up in those games which will help us come tournament time."



Shawsheen's Joe Galvin has Tewksbury's Derek Walsh tied up during Saturday's Sons of Italy wrestling tournament held at WHS. (photo by Jessica Stygles).

Shawsheen Tech Sports Round-up Boys Hoop team off to 3-0 start

By MIKE IPPOLITO AND
JAMIE POTE

The Shawsheen Tech boys basketball team will almost certainly be challenged by some of their opponents this season, as they head into the bulk of their Commonwealth Athletic Conference schedule. But in the early going this season it has yet to happen.

The Rams were 3-0 (2-2 in the CAC) on the young season heading into this week, and all three wins had come by blowout margins. In fact, blowout may not quite do justice to the victory margins by the Rams to this point. In three games this season they have won by 41, 36, and 35 points respectively.

Their two most recent wins last week were over North Shore in a home game and Fellowship Academy in a road game. The Rams routed North Shore by a score of 64-28 behind 20 points from Wilmington's Mike Gore and another 17 off the bench from fellow Wilmington native Brendan Warford. In the 55-20 win over Fellowship the Rams got 12 points and 10 rebounds from Gore and 11 points and five assists from point guard Chris Pavidis.

It's a little tough to get a read on exactly just how good the Rams are at this point considering their level of competition thus far, but one thing is for sure, they are playing the style of play that coach Ron Nowakowski wants to see for the rest of the season.

"Our defense has been very good in all three games," Nowakowski said. "We do a lot of boxing out drills in practice and that has paid off. We try not to go too up tempo, but control the boards and play tough defense."

In all of the Rams games so far every member of the team has played in both the first and second half. This is a trend that may not be possible to continue in each game, but Nowakowski would like to do it as much as possible. The Rams have also gotten contributions from a variety of players in these games.

While Gore, Sean Sullivan and Pavidis will be stars on a nightly basis, the Rams are also discovering some new potential stars coming off the bench. Warford's 17-point effort against North Shore was a prime example, and Nowakowski has been very impressed by the senior.

"Brendan had the best game of his life in that game," Nowakowski said. "He is shooting the three pointer with confidence and was 5-of-6 in that game. Here, a kid who works co-op in Boston all day and then drives back here to practice and play no matter how tired he is. That's just a tribute to Brendan."

Two other players who have been impressive in the early going for the Rams are Tewksbury's Steve Stocki and Wilmington's Jeremy Sawicki. "Stocki has improved his strength a lot this year and he's not afraid to mix it up under the boards. He is our first player off the bench to relieve Gore and Sullivan and he has done a great job," Nowakowski said. "Jeremy finds a way to score against anyone. Especially for his first year he is a very good

scorer. And he's got a great basketball IQ."

With such an easy time of it to this point, you might wonder if the Rams would get complacent and not be ready once the tough games start. But Nowakowski says that will not be a problem for this team.

"We scheduled some tough games in the pre-season because we knew the start of our season would be a little weak," Nowakowski said. "And these kids work very hard in practice every day to prepare to meet every challenge."

Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team at Shawsheen Tech is also off to a 3-0 (2-0 in the CAC) start, although their last win came in rather unique fashion as they won by forfeit against Fellowship last Thursday night. Fellowship has decided to forfeit the remainder of their season.

The Lady Rams won their first two games in a much more conventional fashion, blowing out Lowell Catholic in their season opener by a score of 47-23 and the downing North Shore by a score of 34-30 last Tuesday night in a road game. Despite the quick start, coach Bill Ritchie is still cautious about his expectations for the remainder of the season.

"I still project us to be an 8-12 win team," Ritchie said. "It's funny because the expectations that people have for us when we show up is that we will be the same as we were in the past. But this is a young team and they are still learning."

In the North Shore game, sophomore Erica Marsh led the way with 12 points while Mandi MacDonald chipped in nine points and 11 rebounds. MacDonald's effort followed a 25-point night against Lowell Catholic. Not surprisingly, with an eye to the future, Ritchie has been most impressed with a pair of freshmen.

"The things that have caught my eye have been the play of Amanda Vacca and Tayla Brander," Ritchie said. "Amanda is relentless She puts in a great effort and goes 100% all the time."

Although Ritchie is careful not to get too wrapped up in the team's quick start, he has been impressed with his team's effort so far. The competition the Lady Rams have faced will not be the best they will face all season, but Ritchie points out they have beaten a couple of cupcakes either.

"That was not a bad North Shore team that we beat. They probably had the best individual player that we will face all season," Ritchie said. "But our kids came up tough at the end and shot free throws very well."

The Lady Rams will also get a boost this week when Tewksbury native and captain Jenn Elwell returns to the lineup. Elwell has yet to play this season and adding her to an already undefeated team can do nothing but help.

"We got it done so far without her, but we are obviously a better team now that we have her back," Ritchie said. "She will be a big plus for us. I still don't think we have the talent to beat Whittier and Tyngsboro, but we are better."

Of course the first meetings with Whittier and Tyngsboro do

not come for at least a couple of weeks and then the Lady Rams will meet them again late in the season. Shawsheen may not be ready yet to challenge those teams, but as the year goes on they may very well be.

"It's a young team and we are crawling right now. Then we will walk and hopefully we will run," Ritchie said. "We are going to battle some of these good teams even though we may not win. As I've said before we will be a far better team in February than we are now and we are showing signs of that right now."

Wrestling

On Saturday the Shawsheen wrestling team competed in the 17th annual Sons of Italy Tournament. Several state contenders such as Dracut, Weston, Shawsheen and North Andover came to the tournament which was wrapped up after about 12 hours.

Dracut won the tournament with 224 points, followed by North Andover (153.50), Haverhill (152), Weston (141.50) and Tewksbury (109) to round out the top five. Wilmington was sixth with 100 points, Shawsheen was 8th with 87 and Minuteman Tech, coached by former WHS star Brian Tildsley finished with 52 points.

Shawsheen's John Pimental was the lone individual champion from the three teams as he won the 189 pound class with a 8-4 win over North Andover's Corey Tierney. Teammate Paul Callahan, as well as other locals including Tewksbury's Chris Byrne and Wilmington's Dave Paris and Anthony Almeida all lost in the finals to take second place.

Shawsheen head coach Mark Donovan knows that the eighth place finish the team got in the tournament wasn't what they are normally accustomed too, especially since this year's team seems to be very good on paper, but the long time coach knows what is at stake.

"We did pretty good but we're hurt and we're pretty banged up," he said. "(Steve) Helmer got an injury and we held him out, and we also have our 215 guy out and a bunch of other guys banged up. I think once we get healthy, we're going to be pretty good especially towards the end of the season."

Pimental won the 189-pound division with his 8-4 victory. Callahan was defeated in a close, 7-5 match in the 152-pound division.

"Paul had a great tournament," said Donovan. "He worked very hard and he's such a team player. His goal coming in was to win this tournament and now he knows he just has to work that much harder. I thought Joey (Galvin) did a real nice job to take a third place (at 171) and John (Pimental) had taken second place the last two years here and he knew he was leaving here today as a winner. He's a great leader by example."

Helmer, Peter Barry and Joe Ronan all picked up two victories each for the Rams. Kevin Bradley, Pat Leary and Shawn Pimental all earned a victory. Aaron Stanton, Brian Shock, Stephen Butler, Chris Dell'Anno and Rich Doane put up good efforts in their two matches.

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Woodchips

From S-1

Kristin Mercer, Jack King, Bill Callahan, Bill Cantillon, Katie Ring, ALL OF WOBURN.

Paul Rao asked, "Would you like to contribute something to the old ladies home?"

"Sure," I replied, "Take my Aunt Nora..."

Retired ELECTRICIAN Bob Butler writes a monthly column in the ELECTRICAL NEWS. It's called CURRENT EVENTS...

Many of you I'm sure, have seen how a SEAGULL picks up a clam, then flies up a hundred feet or more into the air and DROPS THE CLAM, so when it hits the ground, the gull can get at the clam from the broken shell.

Well, two NEARSIGHTED SEAGULLS picked up two stones by mistake, flew up and dropped them. UNFORTUNATELY, the rocks hit two senior citizens who were sunbathing, killing them. The coroner's report cited

the cause of death as GULL STONES...

When my Uncle John Shea was confined to the CHELSEA SOLDIER'S HOME, his bosom friend Rowan Fitzgerald when there to visit him.

"How are you feeling today?" Rowan asked. "What did you say?" Uncle John inquired. "I asked you how you are feeling."

"Come closer - I still can't hear you."

"For crying out loud! Are you getting DEAF?" "No," Uncle John replied, "But I've been laying here for over two weeks without a drop to drink and let me tell you Rowan, your breath is like a BREEZE FROM HEAVEN."

DREAMBOATS - Christine Monaco of BURLINGTON, Lauren Palma of LYNNFIELD, Alexis Jones of NORTH READING, Anne Hagerty of READING, Tiana DeCrescenzo of STONEHAM, Sue Bissett of TEWKSBURY, Rosemary Burludi of WAKEFIELD, Lauren McGonagle of WILMINGTON, Nancy Sullivan of

WINCHESTER, Nicholas Mercer of WOBURN.

SUPERSTARS - Joseph Arena of BURLINGTON, Vill Gustus of LYNNFIELD, Brad Jones Jr. of NORTH READING, Rep. Paul Casey of READING, Nicole DeCampo of STONEHAM, Lee Bailey of TEWKSBURY, Police Lt. George Thistle of WAKEFIELD, Sarah McMahon of WILMINGTON, Ed Barrat of WINCHESTER, Jim Dwyer of WOBURN.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE members were debating the feasibility of INSTALLING SEATBELTS inside SCHOOL BUSES. They decided to ask the opinion of a veteran school bus driver who was sitting in the audience.

He stood up, a bandaged right ear plainly visible, and speaking softly he said, "Installing seatbelts is a good idea BUT on my bus, STRAIT JACKETS would be a lot better!..."

Retired Police Officer Kevin

Fisher works in a bakery in Las Vegas making CUP CAKES. He puts in a PINCH of this and a PINCH of that. CASH ONLY, no CUFFING...

I never really knew what HAPPINESS was until I married my wife Kathy. And by then, it was TOO LATE...

I remember when Ralph Ferregamo fired me as a PIZZA MAKER in his restaurant when the customers complained that the CARDBOARD I put the PIZZAS in tasted better than the food...

DR. WALTER M. BORTZ said, "There is no drug in current or prospective use that HOLD AS MUCH PROMISE for a HAPPY LIFE as PERSONAL EXERCISE, LAUGHTER, and LOVE. I hope reading Woodchips helps you "Laugh." Dr. Bortz, may I humbly add one more ingredient to your prescription for a "LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS?" It is DANCING



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Movie Reviews *by Paul Feely*

"LORD OF THE RINGS"

MOVIE: "THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING"
GRADE: ****

Director Peter Jackson completes his dream of bringing the J.R.R. Tolkien classics to the big screen in this, the final installment of his trilogy.

The movie, which centers around the final battle between good and the evil forces of Mordor, with the fate and future of Middle Earth hanging in the balance, looks beautiful on the big screen. The countryside of New Zealand is the backdrop for some of the most technologically advanced special effects ever created for a film, as Jackson and his crew bring an entire army of mystical creatures, soldiers, even the dead to life in grand fashion.

The acting by the principal players has been superb since the first film, and Jackson's strategy of filming all three movies over a period of a year and a half clearly pays off, as the actors don't visibly age between films.

For those unfamiliar with the previous storyline, there are a few flashbacks, but to truly enjoy the outcome, one must see the first seven hours of this tale.

SHORTTAKES

MOVIE: "STUCK ON YOU"
GRADE: **

The Farrelly brothers, those wacky siblings who brought such hit comedies as 'Dumb and Dumber' and 'There's Something About Mary' to the screen, directed this comedy about brothers who share a liver and don't get along very well.

The conjoined twins are played by Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear, and grow up on Martha's Vineyard. They go through many growing pains and experiences together before deciding to leave the tiny island to pursue a career in Hollywood.

Damon and Kinnear are likable enough, and there are a few very funny scenes, but they just aren't enough to carry the movie to the level

of other classic comedies. The movie continues a recent trend in Farrelly brother movies, such as 'Shallow Hal', where the directors go a little heavy on the sentimental, sugary-sweet moral of the story, in what should strictly be a laugh-out-loud joke fest.

MOVIE: "BAD SANTA"
GRADE: **

This is the perfect film for those that never seem to get in the mood for the holidays, but if this is your favorite time of year, stay as far away from this movie as possible.

Billy Bob Thornton plays a wise-cracking drunk who works as a department store Santa while he cases the joint to rob it at a later date. His character hates Christmas, and he and his dwarf sidekick regularly swear at children and poke fun at almost every camp, Hollywood Christmas tradition you have ever seen on screen in the past.

The movie is very funny if you appreciate hardcore cynicism and have a sharp wit, but if you are happy running with the shopping crowd and stopping for the carolers, this isn't the film for you.

MOVIE: "THE CAT IN THE HAT"
GRADE: **

Star Mike Myers, normally very funny in more adult roles, falls a bit flat in this portrayal of the classic hero of the famous Dr. Seuss book of the same name.

Myers tries very hard, but his physical comedic abilities are lost under a ton of make-up and a cat suit. There are a few risqué remarks thrown in to this children's movie, presumably for the parents to laugh at, but they really have no place in what should be a holiday classic for kids, but instead turns out to be nothing more than lethargic, unimaginative interpretation of the classic story.

Despite the high-priced visuals and special effects, the story is better told on pages meant for little hands than it is on the big screen.

MOVIE: "ELF"
GRADE: ***

Star Will Ferrell, known for his sometimes adult humor in other movies, turns in a performance suitable for viewers of almost all ages in this holiday tale.

Movies to S-7

About the Towns

by Phyllis Nissen

HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS...

Burlington: People helping people

"The Burlington Blockbuster has announced it will begin a policy of not charging a late fee on any late returned product," notes the Burlington edition of the "Daily Times Chronicle."

"This change affects only the Burlington store. According to franchise owner and Burlington resident Jeff Steinbach, the Burlington store may very well be the first video store in Massachusetts and one of the few nationwide to adopt a 'No Late Fee' policy.

"Our customers tell us that they hate to pay late fees and consider it the biggest negative in renting a movie," Steinbach said. "We are responding to our customers' concerns and decided the time was right to offer this benefit to our customers."

"Steinbach believes that over time the entire video industry will make the switch toward eliminating late fees in response to the demands of their customers."

"How our customers react to this program in Burlington will be watched closely by many in the video industry," he said.

"The Burlington Blockbuster also began a program in support of Burlington's food pantry, 'People Helping People.' Customers who brought in a canned food donation to the store received a free Kids Rental through November 22.

"Also, in conjunction with the new 'No Late Fee' policy, the Burlington Blockbuster store is offering customers its 'Clean Slate Program.'

"Under this program, customers with old late fees on their accounts could come into the store and have the fees written off in full.

"We asked customers who took advantage of our 'Clean Slate Program' to donate two canned goods to the 'People Helping People' can drive," Steinbach said...."

Winchester: Global citizens

"Afghanistan may seem far away from Winchester but two local residents and the Winchester Rotary Club are closer than one might imagine," notes the Winchester edition of the "Daily Times Chronicle."

"Global Citizens Circle, an organization that promotes constructive discussions on pressing world's concerns, hosted a discussion on Afghanistan. Three Winchester residents were present.

"One of them was Steve Boodakian, Winchester Rotary Club and local businessman. Boodakian presented a \$2,000 grant to help develop a non-governmental organization in Afghanistan. The other two residents were Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould, a husband and wife team that co-produced a documentary on Sima Wali, a woman activist who returned to Afghanistan in October of 2002 after 24 years of exile in the United States.

"Fitzgerald and Gould have known Wali for many years since they were the first American journalists allowed to enter Afghanistan behind Soviet lines in 1981.

Since then, the two became very involved with that country and met Wali in the process.

"We've worked together in various projects," Gould explained. She also said that Wali founded the organization that now she is president of, Refugee Women in Development (RefWID).

"RefWID is a women's institution focused on refugees, displaced and returnee women in the United States and overseas. It works to bring economic stability and support to the civil and democratic institutional capacities of women and provide training for the empowerment, leadership development, advocacy and individual skill development of women and community-

based grass roots agencies.

"Boodakian said that the Rotary Club gives between 15 and 20 percent of its funds to international causes. But the Rotary needs to know that the cause is worthwhile. 'What is compelling in this case is that we have this local link [Fitzgerald and Gould] so we can verify that it is worthwhile,' he said.

"Boodakian said the club would like to develop a sustained relationship as opposed to a singular occasion. 'We hope this is the beginning of a long-term project,' he said. Boodakian also added that since he is a businessman, it is exciting to know that he is helping people learn how to make money and not just giving them the money.

"The grant will go to a grass-root organization in Kabul called The Training and Education Center of the Poor Women and Girls of Afghanistan. This group is part of the Afghan based groups that RefWID is helping develop and fund.

"According to Wali, approximately 100 of these enterprises exist but they need resources and money. International organizations like the UN provide funds and resources mostly for international groups but not for locally based organizations.

"Most of these grass root groups are led by women because 67 percent of the Afghan population is women. 'We cannot write them off,' Wali said...."

Wilmington: Service above self

"Local men and women who are serving in the United States military were honored by the Wilmington Rotary Club for living by that organization's motto of 'Service Above Self,' notes the "Wilmington Town Crier."

"During a ceremony, citations and gift certificates were awarded at the Masonic Hall to 11 Wilmington soldiers who are, or have been, stationed in combat areas of the Middle East.

"Not only is Veterans Day a day to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed

Towns to S-4

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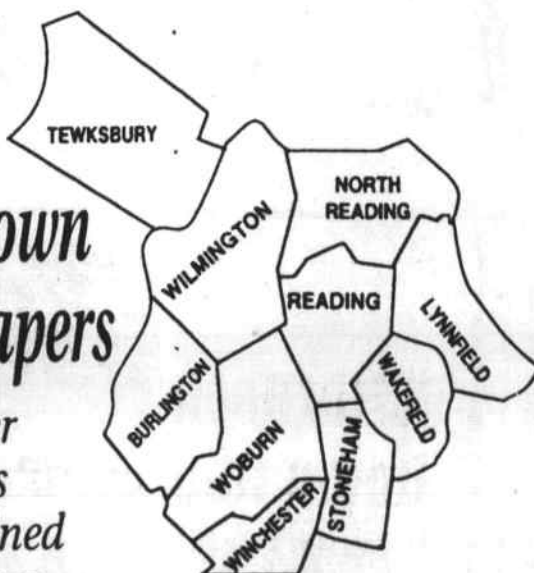
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School Notes

by Phyllis Nissen

'TIS THE SEASON...

Generosity in Reading

"How can you help support library services to teens and enjoy a private screening of great new movies?" notes the Reading edition of the "Daily Times Chronicle."

"The answer was simple - come to Reading's Fourth Annual Community Movie Day."

"This event, sponsored by John and Mary Williams of MobilMart in Reading, took place on Friday, November 21 at the Gloucester Cinema."

"Movie viewers had a choice of two new movies - the premiere of 'The Cat in the Hat,' or the recently-released 'Elf.' This was a chance to see highly-anticipated first-run movies with members of the Reading community in a small family-owned theater."

"November 21 was a no-school day for Reading students, and offered the perfect opportunity for a road trip to Gloucester. The cinema is approximately one half-hour from Reading."

"Tickets were \$5 per person and had to be purchased in advance at the Reading Public Library."

Towns From S-3

Services, it is also a day where we should honor the men and women who are actively serving in the United States Armed Services," states Rotary Club President Joe Bilicki.

"Rotarian Fred Cain brought the idea to honor these individuals to the Wilmington chapter after seeing a similar program being done by the Melrose Rotary Club. The Wilmington chapter jumped at the idea and sponsored \$50 American Express gift certificates for the soldiers. Cain personally contributed a second \$50 American Express gift certificate for each soldier through Fred F. Cain, Inc."

"We picked American Express because they can be used anywhere in the world," Cain explains.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Williams Family, all movie sales were donated to the Reading Public Library. The library will use the funds to offer additional programs and services to middle and high school students. Among the programs funded by last year's Movie Day were free tickets to 'The Hobbit,' playing at the Austin Preparatory School this summer, an afternoon of bowling, additional rocker chairs for the Teen Spot and a variety of Teen Read Week events."

"Reading residents John and Mary Williams are owners of the MobilMart on Main Street in Reading. They purchased the small three-screen cinema in Gloucester a few years ago and didn't waste any time using the theater in support of the Reading community."

Goodwill in Stoneham

"In the true spirit of giving, goodwill and food that has been the hallmark of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the South School community got together to donate 38 baskets of food to local charities," notes the "Stoneham Independent."

"Letters were sent out, inviting the servicemen and women to attend the ceremony, though most are still overseas and were represented by family members."

"Master Sergeant E7 John Delorey and Tec. Sgt. Rodman Hill were the only two servicemen able to attend the ceremony..."

"About the Towns" covers recent events in the 10-town Middlesex East area. Because Middlesex East deadlines are early, please check the front sections of this paper for up-to-date information about your city or town. We also welcome original material - please send it to Phyllis Nissen, "About the Towns," Middlesex East Supplement, Box 240, Reading, MA 01867 or to notestowns@comcast.net.

"According to the Chairman of the South School Community Outreach Committee, Ed Alberti, the food basket drive has grown enormously over the last year."

"This is the first year that I've taken it over and everybody has just been so great," said Alberti, a South School parent who has a pair of sons (Michael, age 9, and Matthew, age 6) at the elementary school. "Last year, we did about 15 baskets to the three different charities, and this year we were up to 38. They were all so happy, and each got about 12 baskets."

"The school really came through," said Alberti. "The kids came through and did a great job."

"The idea for the drive began to catch steam the beginning of November, and by the middle of the second week, boxed and canned food began streaming in from students, faculty, staff and other parents. Each class had a basket that had become an overflowing cornucopia of Turkey Day generosity."

"Alberti, along with a group of students, parents, and South School Principal Nick Leonardos gathered to load the baskets into vehicles and send them off to the local charities. According to Leonardos, parents Stephan Chiappini and Andrea Gustin were also instrumental in the philanthropic effort."

"It was something that we had success with last year, but we really exceeded all expectations this year," said Leonardos. "We were joking around and trying to come up with a guesstimate of how much food was donated, and we thought it to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 pounds..."

"My kids go to school at South and I coach soccer," added Alberti. "I just like to get involved and help out. I'm an outgoing person, ya know..."

Service in North Reading

"As a community service,

Athletes & Activities

by Paul Feely

SPORTS SHORTS

•**MIDDLESEX EAST SPORTS WEEKLY TRIVIA?** What are the Boston Bruins five Stanley Cup seasons? Answer appears elsewhere in this column.

•Colby College senior football player **JEREMY JAMIESON** OF **STONEHAM** was named to the 2003 Academic All-District /College Division Football team. Jamieson, a psychology major at Colby, was one of four defensive backs named to the All District 1 First Team, which includes all NCAA Division III colleges from New York and New England.

Jamieson worked this past summer interning with Dr. Charles Hanson at the Greater Lowell Psychiatric

the students who attend SEEM classes at North Reading Middle School recently made and donated lap blankets for several nursing home residents at Sunbridge Care of North Reading," notes the "North Reading Transcript."

"The colorful fleece blankets were fashioned from Polartec fleece purchased in bulk from Malden Mills. The lap-size blankets were adorned with fringe which the students cut and knotted themselves. They hope their gifts will keep the residents cozy throughout the winter months ahead."

"The students participating in the project were: Corey Bishop, Laura Robert, Caitlin Simmons, Melina Federico, Anna Curran, Rachel Damon and Sara Hintlian. The project would not have been possible without the assistance of Head Teacher Judy Carter and teaching assistants Karen Porter, Eileen d'Entremont and Suzan Driscoll."

Associates. The job involved visiting hospitals and nursing homes to treat patients via psychotropic medications or therapy. Jamieson is currently conducting his own experiment entitled, "Contagious Yawning and Social Interactive Style."

A key member of the Colby pass defense, Jamieson was tied for second on the team in interceptions in 2003 with two and was seventh in total tackles with 36. He helped Colby rank fourth in the New England Small College Athletic Conference in pass defense and total defense. He was fifth on the squad in total tackles with 28 during the 2002 season.

•**NORTH READING'S MICHELLE RIDINGS** is the Merrimack College softball captain next season.

•**NORTH READING'S ASHLEY HARMELING**, a junior on the Amherst College women's soccer team, has earned the title of the top 2003 New England Small College Athletic Conference women's soccer player of the year. She led the NESAC with 18 goals for Amherst, helping to lead her team to the league championship and a slot in the NCAA Division 3 tourney.

•**WOBURN'S JASON LOMBARDO**, a junior member of the Keene State College men's soccer team, was recently named to the NSCAA All-region men's soccer first team. Lombardo led KSC in scoring with 18 goals and 10 assists for 46 points. The LEC's offensive player of the year, Lombardo tallied eight game-winning goals this season. A three-time all-region pick, Lombardo moved into third on the Owl's all-time goal list with 45.

•**STONEHAM'S BRYAN LAST**, a junior, is a member of the Stonehill College men's ice hockey team this winter.

•Need some help on this

week's trivia question? The last Stanley Cup season for the Bruins was 1971-72.

•**WAKEFIELD'S JULIE HIGGINS** pulled the Merrimack College women's basketball team to within two points in a recent game against UMass-Lowell, 62-60, by hitting one of two free throws, but the team eventually lost 64-60.

•**THE COLONIAL ADULT MASTERS SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM** is recruiting new members for the 2003-2004 season. Prior experience on such a team is not needed, but eligible skaters must be age 25 by the preceding July 1. For more information call Team Manager Cheryl Milloy at 781-275-4476.

•**LYNNFIELD'S TORI SPENCE**, a senior at Johnson and Wales University (JWU) and captain of the women's tennis team the last two years, was named the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Women's Player of the Year. Spence has been a dominant force throughout the GNAC this year as she tallied a JWU record of 31 wins playing first singles and first doubles. She also set the career record at JWU tallying 99 wins in her four years at first singles and first doubles. Upon graduation in May, Spence will attend graduate school to pursue an MBA.

•**ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA QUESTION:** The five Stanley Cup seasons for the Bruins were: 1928-29, 1938-39, 1940-41, 1969-70, 1971-72.

•**DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?** If you have information about a local athlete that you would like to see appear in this column, please mail it to: Paul Feely, Middlesex East Sports, P.O. Box 240, Reading, MA, 01867, or call Paul at 781-944-2200 between 7 am and 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday, or fax information at 781-942-0884.

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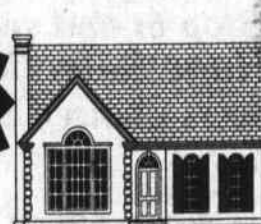
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Calendar of Events

MIDDLESEX CANAL

CELEBRATION JANUARY 1

In the spirit of the "grand jubilee" hosted by Col. Loammi Baldwin of Woburn when he announced that the Canal would be completed by the end of 1803 (He missed by 2 hours), the Middlesex Canal Association plans a gala party at the Canal Museum-Visitor Center on New Year's Day, January 1 from 2 to 5 p.m.

All are welcome to the free festive occasion. Some attendees are planning to improvise costumes to help recall this historic event.

The elation of the guests in 1803 is understandable. The longest canal in the Western Hemisphere had been built in 10 years with private funding, using only manual tools to move dirt and shape rock.

Connecting the Merrimack and Charles Rivers, the Middlesex Canal was the critical link in providing a waterway from Boston to Concord, New Hampshire at a time when roads were primitive and railroads non-existent.

This 10 year period has been revisited with annual events by the Middlesex Canal Assn., calling it the Bicentennial Decade; this party is the culminating event in that series. Concurrently the Canal Museum has been established in North Billerica on the bank of the Concord River Millpond, which supplied the water for the Canal north and south.

The Museum is located in the Faulkner Mill at 71 Faulkner St., in North Billerica. To get to the Museum follow Treble Cove Road north from its intersection with Route 3A, marked by a traffic light. Drive about 1/4 mile to a 3 way fork, take the middle road, which will put St. Andrew's Church on your left. Drive about 1/4 mile, bear right then turn right onto Faulkner St. Drive about 1/4 mile, the Museum is on your left and you can park across the street on your right, just beyond the falls.

The party will begin with a reception featuring hot mulled cider, wine and cheese, followed by a lively mixer (Who am I?). There will be a brief greeting by the President Nolan Jones followed by some famous canal songs and a sing-along led by the Troubadour of the Middlesex Canal, Paul Wiggins. Finally will come some delectables, such as Baldwin apple and pumpkin pies, ham biscuits, and gingerbread.

CREATIVE ARTS REGISTRATION

Creative Arts winter/spring brochures have arrived. Registrations are now being accepted for classes and lessons which will begin in February.

Creative Arts is a non-profit community school of the arts and music for all ages. In addition to weekly classes and music lessons, family fun nights, weekday workshops and school vacation week theater workshops are offered.

Visit Creative Arts online at www.creativearts-forkids.org. For more information call 781-942-9600.

LOWELL HOSTS WINTERFEST 2004

The City of Lowell will host the 4th Annual Winterfest 2004 Celebration on February 6 and 7. Winterfest 2004 will transform downtown Lowell into a winter wonderland with live entertainment and numerous children's games and activities.

The celebration will include: The National Human Dog Sled Championships, Free public ice skating, a soup/chowder bowl competition, a snowman making contest, Children's rides, Sing-along hay rides, Live entertainment for all ages, a spectacular fireworks finale over City Hall, a micro-brew and wine tasting competition, Lowlaggio's "Aquatic Borealis Dancing Fountains", a 25 foot high fountain that spurts in rhythm with the music, the Snow-Shoed Waiter Races,

where local restaurant staff strap on show shoes and race to the finish with their serving trays held high in Lowell Stadium.

The events are free and open to the public. Please call 1-800-443-3332 x20 or visit www.lowell.org for more information.

MELROSE AARP MEETS ON JANUARY 9TH

The year 2004 will begin January 9 at the Highlands Congregational Church, 355 Franklin St., Melrose. Doors open at 1 p.m. the meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. The rear entry on W. Highland Ave. offers easy access for any handicap requirements.

Any working or retired person fifty years or older is invited to join or get acquainted with this local chapter. For an enjoyable diversion, a cash raffle will be held at some time during the meeting.

Martha Carriere is knowledgeable about one of today's most pressing problems. She has consented to enlighten us with "Protecting Your Identity from Theft".

An extensive buffet of refreshments covering two serving tables will be offered. Further questions should be directed to Pres. Walter Redding 781-428-1544 or Sec. Dottie Pearl at 781-665-7012.

PERFECT GIFTS FOR A RED SOX FAN

The Jimmy Fund offers 2 holiday gifts that are perfect for the Red Sox fanatic who already has their number 5 shirt, their Red Sox calendar, and is already counting the days to the start of the 2004 season.

First, the Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Mass. license plate helps the fan show their loyalty every day and support the team's official charity since 1953. The white plates with red and blue lettering cost \$40 for 2 years. On initial purchase, \$12 is for the cost of the plate, with the rest going to the Jimmy Fund. Forms to apply for the Boston Red Sox Jimmy fund plates area available at www.state.ma.us/rms/express/xpplates.htm, or by stopping at a Registry of Motor Vehicles office.

New this year is a collectible ornament, which is a miniature replica of Fenway Park. Handcrafted and gold plated, it can be hung on a Christmas tree or displayed in a variety of other ways. This limited edition ornament is \$19.99 plus \$5 shipping and handling. To learn more about the license plate and ornament visit www.jimmyfund.org.

LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

The American Red Cross is offering the following Health and Safety Class at it's Peabody office. Pre-registration is required. Babysitting Mon & Tues Dec. 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information call 978-531-2280 or register on line at www.bostonredcross.org.

WORLD OF WHEELS AT BAYSIDE EXPO

Perennially popular with custom car show crowds is the big network television series "Dukes of Hazzard," now and seemingly forever in syndication around the world, which will be represented at the Town Fair Tire World of Wheels by the rebel red General Lee show car and Ben Jones, who played garage mechanic Cooter in the series, when the motorsports expo comes to the Bayside Expo Center January 9 - 11.

An usual, the Town Fair Tire World of Wheels will feature more than 300 dazzling custom vehicles of all types, representing millions of dollars worth of one of a kind hot rods, customs, street rods, collectibles, race cars, antiques, restorations and more, and will offer spectators the chance to meet and get autographs from race car drivers and local sports and other celebrities, to see specialty vehicles and to be entertained by many other attractions for the whole family.

Show hours are 5-11 p.m. Friday Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sat. Jan. 10 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday Jan. 11. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Bayside Expo center is easily reached by car off Exit 15 of the Southeast Expressway (I-95) and by public transit from the

MBTA Red Line JFK/UMass station.

For more information call 617-367-3555. To enter a car in competition call 405-766-8591. Check www.worldofwheels.com for up to date information on attractions.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Burlington Sons of Italy will hold registration for Italian Language Classes Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at St. Margaret's Church school Winn St., Burlington. Fee is \$70 for 10 weeks.

Beginner 1 class held at Burlington Library, Sears St on Monday evenings, starting Jan. 26. Beginner 2 & 3 and intermediate classes Wednesday evenings at St. Margaret's school, starting Jan. 21.

Intermediate advance and advance Thursdays at Burlington Library starting Jan. 22. Register early, space is limited. For information call 781-932-8203.

SUBURBAN ADVENTURE CLUB PROGRAMS

Suburban Adventure Club hosts 15+ diverse events per month - come make new friends and have fun. Upcoming events include:

New Year's Eve Party - Wed. 12/31, Wakefield, 8:30 p.m. \$50. For reservations, newsletter and info call/write 978-663-9495, www.SuburbanAdventureClub.com.

GRIFFIN MUSEUM

PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAYS

The Griffin Museum of Photography at 67 Shore Road in Winchester is having 2 displays open to the public.

Main Gallery now through February 24: 10th Griffin Museum Juried Exhibition, featuring works of 61 photographers from around the country.

Emerging Artists Gallery: through January 15 - "Hard Boys and Bad Girl", Thomas McGovern's ongoing photography project of young people living their fantasies of greatness through professional wrestling.

The Griffin Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday 12 - 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for seniors. Members and children under 12 are free. Thursday features free admission all day.

The Griffin Museum is handicapped accessible and parking is available on the premises. For more information call 781-729-1158 or www.griffinmuseum.org.

WINCHESTER HOSPITAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of Winchester Hospital extends an invitation to all men and women of the communities served by the hospital to attend an orientation for prospective adult volunteers to learn more about current volunteer opportunities.

On Monday, Jan. 12, Barbara Gillespie and Audrey Caulfield, Vice Chairpersons of the Volunteer Services Board, and Marie Johnson, Director of Volunteer Services, will host a session at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the hospital. Coffee and a brief

tour of the hospital will follow the introduction.

Please come and learn about the rewards of being a volunteer at Winchester Hospital. Questions, call Marie Johnson, Director of Volunteer Services at 781-756-2625.

PERSONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP OFFERED

Curves for Women and NDEITA, a non-profit fitness professional association, are co-sponsoring the following nationally recognized workshops:

A personal Trainer Workshop will be held on Sat. Feb. 21 at 8 a.m. and Sun. Feb. 22 at 8 a.m.

This 2 day workshop includes demonstrations and practical application of one-on-one training. NDEITA's expert trainer will cover exercise science review, communication skills, exercise programming health assessments and more.

Workshop registration includes written exam, 2 year certificate and membership.

The event location is Curves, 1565 Main St., Unit 1D in Tewksbury. The contact is Sarah Levenson at 978-858-0600. To register call 800-aerobic or register online at www.ndeita.com.

HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE IN MIDDLETON

A free Hunter Education course will be held in Middleton by the Danvers Fish and Game Club. The location is

Log Bridge Road (off Rte. 114) Middleton on Jan. 10, 17 and 24 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Mass. Hunter Education Program is conducting a Basic Hunter Education course. Successful completion of the course fulfills the requirements established by Mass General Law to make application for a Class A or B License to Carry Firearms, or a Firearms Identification Card. Check with your local police chief to fulfill all firearms licensing requirements.

Students must attend every session. Adults, as well as younger men and women, are encouraged to attend. A Mass. Hunter Education Certificate is provided to course graduates 15 years or older. Students, ages 10 - 14, may participate and receive a "Letter of Completion" to meet out-of-state licensing requirement. Parental permission is required of all students under 18 years of age.

For additional information write Hunter Education, P.O. Box 408, Westminster, Ma. 01473-0408 or call 508-792-7434, 978-632-7648, 617-727-3623 or visit www.masswildlife.org.

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WINTER SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

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- Toning with Tots (parent & baby 1-12 months)
- Kid Fit Class (2.5-4 yrs) Kid Fit Class (5-8 yrs.)
- Hip Hop Dance for Kids (7-12 yrs.)
- Yoga for Kids (7-12 yrs.)
- Cardio Kickboxing for Teens (13-16 yrs.)
- Strength Training for Teens (13-16 yrs.)
- Iyengar Yoga •NIA
- Women on Weights •Weight Management Program
- Prenatal Yoga Class
- Adult Ballet Class •Adult Jazz Class



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~ Real Estate Transfers ~

-BURLINGTON-

Median Price: \$359,000

- 13 ARBOR COURT U:15 was sold to Sandra MacKay by Desiree and Jerry Namery for \$416,000.
267 CAMBRIDGE STREET was sold to Gary Litchfield and Stephen Tabaldi by PAK Rt. and Rose Doherty Connors for \$160,000.
11 CHESTER AVENUE was sold to Jennifer Callahan and Anthony Onorato by Dianne Marston for \$363,000.
4 CLIFFORD ROAD was sold to Rizwanul Karim by Carmen McNeill for \$465,000.
5 FROTHINGHAM ROAD was sold to Jennifer and Michael Hickey by Barbara and Lawrence Keating for \$480,000.
1 LUCY ROAD was sold to Edmund Naddaff by Debra Patierno and Joseph Sergi, Jr. for \$307,500.
4 PONTOS AVENUE was sold to Kenneth Putney by James Garside for \$270,000.
12 THISTLE ROAD was sold to David and Karen Kinneen by Francis Serris for \$425,000.
24 UPLAND ROAD was sold to Krishan Ramaswamy and Sumithra Rajagopalan by Nilanjana Daschadhuri for \$375,000.

-LYNNFIELD-

Median Price: \$439,950

- 8 BALDWIN LANE was sold to Jack and Jane Friedman by Euclides Demelo and Maria Dulce Soares-Demelo for \$670,000.
2 BEAVER AVENUE was sold to Luc Robert and Michelle Burpee-Robert by Carolyn and William Faria for \$425,000.
1 COLEMAN AVENUE was sold to Kyle O'Connor and Alison Roma by Brenda Berglund and Kevin Perelli for \$435,000.
36 CREST ROAD was sold to Janet MacLean by Lona Franson for \$371,500.
44 FAIRVIEW ROAD was sold to Peterben Petras by Lucy Ingalls Nt and Wendell Weyland for \$350,000.
55 FOREST HILL AVENUE was sold to Yvonne Blacker by 55 Forest Hill Avenue Lynn T. and Floyd Heglund Tr. for \$625,000.
18 LOCKSLEY ROAD was sold to Jonathan and Louise Donner by Julia Palladino for \$250,000.
5 LOWELL STREET was sold to Julia Lowell by Jacqueline and John Nickerson for \$485,000.
555 SALEM STREET was sold to Paul Moretti by North Shore Rt. and Andrew Perkins Tr. for \$375,000.
1100 SALEM STREET U:7 was sold to Maureen Callahan by Margaret Maben Messenger for \$210,000.
419 SUMMER STREET was sold to Stephen and Deborah Strauss by Vincent DiBiase Inc. for \$760,000.
5 TAPPAN COURT was sold to Eric and Kelly Kerr by Woodhill Realty LLC. for \$550,000.
8 TAPPAN WAY was sold to William Faria by Dorothy Hichens for \$495,000.

-NORTH READING-

Median Price: \$404,000

- 35 BRASSIE WAY U:1 was sold to Carol Varonakis by John and Marion Lonergan for \$545,000.
22 ESSEX STREET was sold to Deborah and Eric Lefebvre by Darren and Karen Crowley for \$262,000.
24 HERITAGE WAY was sold to Theresa and Nicholas Vontzalides by Robert Penton-Jarmstrong for \$549,900.
8 OAK AVENUE was sold to George Zhang and Xiaolei Qi by Gregory and Tina Sawyer for \$369,900.
64 SOUTHWICK ROAD was sold to Craig Hassenstab and Joanne Harritos by Cheryl and Peter O'Toole for \$371,700.
26 SPOON WAY U:26 was sold to Kelly Wiling by Adele Fyfe for \$375,000.
2 TARBOX LANE was sold to Robyn and Michael Kotarski by Jignesh Patel for \$775,000.
8 WILLIAMS ROAD was sold to Garth and Katina McKinney by Nicholas and Theresa Vontzalides for \$449,000.

-READING-

Median Price: \$375,000

- 109 BANCROFT AVENUE was sold to Michael and Narcissa Lyons by Lauren and Youcef Boudeffa for \$390,000.
17 BETHESDA LANE was sold to Wendy and Eric Coyne by Susan Benham for \$600,000.
36 CHESTNUT ROAD was sold to John Edson by Genevieve Richards for \$300,000.
506 FRANKLIN STREET was sold to Kathleen and Michael Ryan by Franklin Street Rt. and Kevin Duff for \$400,000.
143 HAVERHILL STREET was sold to Robert Ascoli by Kerry and James Palastra for \$391,300.
111 HIGH STREET U:111 was sold to Kurt McGrath and Ann Marie Toscano by Hiroko McDonald for \$289,900.
135 HIGH STREET was sold to Elizabeth Schumacher by 135 High Street Rt. and Lena Jepson for \$315,000.
18 KINGSTON STREET was sold to Jean Francois Goldstyn by Elaine Butler and Arthur Butler Jr. for \$397,500.
4 MANNING STREET was sold to Eric Brooks by Kathryn and John Hugh for \$355,000.
77 MIDDLESEX AVENUE was sold to Lauren and Youcef Boudeffa by Gertrude Slezinger and Nancy Roberts for \$437,000.
134 PEARL STREET was sold to John Raffi by Jennette Thomas and Dana Cruikshank for \$465,000.
54 SCOTLAND ROAD was sold to Evelyn and Robert Diorio by Diane Avery-Weggel and Robert Weggel for \$610,000.
82 SPRUCE ROAD was sold to Jennifer and Terrence Reilly for Helen Labo for \$505,000.
47 SUNSET ROCK LANE was sold to Varsha and Vibhas Paranjape by Dean and Mary Beth Mola for \$631,500.
41 VICTORIA AVENUE was sold to Sheryl Cunningham-Love and Robert Love by Cunningham Ft. and Elaine Cunningham for \$575,000.
WEST STREET was sold to Johnson Woods Realty Co. by Johnson Woods Nt. and Edward Moore for \$6,600,000.

-STONEHAM-

Median Price: \$375,000

- 500 WEST STREET was sold to John Furrier Jr. and Linda Furrier by Robyn and Michael Kotarski for \$526,500.
55 WHITTIER ROAD was sold to Tracy and Michael Maloney by Michael and Kathleen Ryan for \$380,000.
10 HARRISON STREET was sold to Julie and Peter Nixon by Robert Genter and Gail McElhinney for \$515,000.
26 KEENE STREET was sold to Garry Rizzuto by Woodberry Holding T. and Inez Woodberry Tr. for \$430,000.
100 LEDGEWOOD DRIVE U:316 was sold to David Volpe by Lisa McGonagle for \$208,000.
20 MANISON STREET was sold to 20 Manison St. Rt. and A. Joseph Rotondi by Ethel Lasalle for \$400,000.
24 MURDOCH ROAD was sold to Frederick and Kathleen Mesuri by Henry Agahigian and Yerin Agahigian for \$600,000.
6 MYOPIA ROAD was sold to Timothy and Jennifer Corduck by Marion Fletcher for \$346,000.
5 OAK RIDGE ROAD was sold to Jason Almeida and Nancy Brooks by Ellen Neilson Ft. and Ellen Nielson for \$299,000.
12 RAYMOND ROAD was sold to Catherine Kostecki by Frances Andruszkiewicz for \$357,000.
31 TOWNE CREST DRIVE was sold to Joseph Celli Jr. and Karen Celli by Richard and Patricia Catanzaro for \$350,000.
1 WEST HANCOCK STREET was sold to Denise and Gabriel Guerrier by Ann Coonan and Judith Smith for \$355,000.

-TEWKSBURY-

Median Price: \$323,450

- 181 APACHE WAY U:181 was sold to Rosario Murillo by Joseph and Lee Colbert for \$258,900.
16 APACHE WAY U:16 was sold to Michael Fratoni by Ricahrd Morris for \$217,000.
69 APACHE WAY was sold to William Chan by Robert and Theresa Pacheco for \$262,000.
30 BRADFORD ROAD was sold to Diane and Stephen O'Rourke by Joan and Philip Caliri for \$362,500.
9 CHRISTINE DRIVE was sold to Edward and Kerry Walker by Michael Nicoloro and P. Croucher-Nicoloro for \$287,500.
38 DECAROLIS DRIVE U:38 was sold to Michele Burke by Andrea and Robert Oregon for \$225,000.
52 DECAROLIS DRIVE U:52 was sold to William Williams by Donna Swanson for \$236,000.
10 DUNVEGAN ROAD was sold to Lisa and Steven Kenney by Ruth Kaplan for \$435,000.
4 EUCLID ROAD was sold to Carol Bernard and Lorraine Cyr by Lorraine and Robert Cyr for \$125,000.
76 GEDDES DRIVE was sold to Constance and Stamatis Eliadis by Gloria Provencher for \$540,000.
38 JANET AVENUE was sold to Anthony and Jennifer Loder by Gwyneth and Phillip Chance for \$316,500.
115 JENNIES WAY was sold to Maryann and Said Benchater by Christopher and Kimberly Hughes for \$470,000.
121 JENNIES WAY was sold to Patricia and William Delonais by Joseph Gelormini for \$520,000.
73 JUNIPER LANE U:73 was sold to Joan and Philip Caliri by Francis and Mindy Torino for \$309,900.
91 JUNIPER LANE was sold to Robert and Theresa Pacheco by Benjamin and Laurie Hodges for \$309,000.
190 KENDALL ROAD was sold to Jedm Rt. and David Donovan Tr. by Helen McAskill and Pamela McAskill Tr. for \$530,000.
1501 MAIN STREET U:32 was sold to Denise Lagasse by Babe Rt. and William Bellino Tr. for \$35,000.
2175 MAIN STREET U:11 was sold to Paul McCann by Tewksbury Townhouse Condo and Ann Buskey Tr. for \$9,000.
295 MARSHALL STREET was sold to Carole Renzullo Tr. and Joseph Renzullo Tr. by Lisa Renzullo for \$291,500.
79 MERRIMACK MEADOW LANE U:79 was sold to Kerry Skrebes by Lorraine Lesieur for \$266,000.
149 MERRIMACK MEADOW LANE U:149 was sold to Joseph Muka by Nancy Turner for \$287,500.

Transfers to S-9

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Please donate whatever you can to the Middlesex East Santa



Sharing Is
Caring

The Salvation Army is preparing for the holiday season - a trying time for many individuals and families. And, since 1988, Middlesex East will be extending a helping hand to those at the Salvation

Army through its Middlesex East Santa.

The giving starts now and will continue through the December holidays with the names of donors prominently displayed.

"We look at this as an extension of the kettle campaign that's conducted every year," said Richard Haggerty, the coordinator of the program through the Middlesex East publications in the region.

The M.E. Santa regularly raises \$4,000 to \$5,000 that is distributed to families in this area through their area representatives helping local people.

Please help.



Sharing Is
Caring

PLEASE HELP THE NEEDY

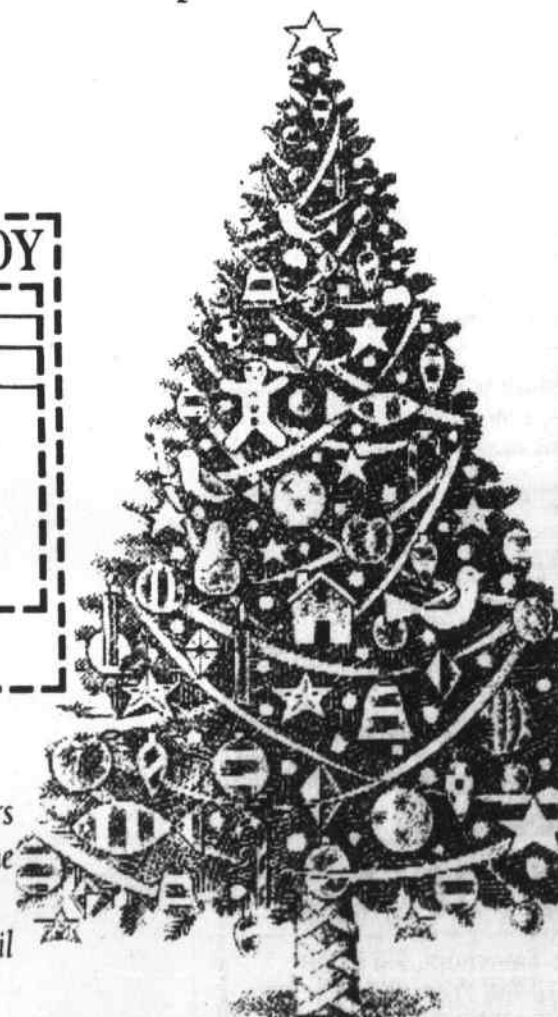
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"Sharing is Caring"

Volunteers-

On another front, The Salvation Army is again looking for volunteers for as little as an hour or two to assist with collections during the Holiday Kettle Drive at the Burlington Mall.

All past volunteers are welcome back and asked to call Mary Gail Ranaldi at 781-942-2083 for this year's schedule.



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Movies From S-3

Ferrell plays a human who is raised by elves at the North Pole, who then sets out into the real world to meet up with his actual family.

Ferrell is very good at physical comedy, and this classic 'fish out of water' storyline demands plenty of him. He is more than up to the task, and the result is a film that all can enjoy.

Director Jon Favreau, known for his roles in films like 'Swingers' and 'Made Men', is at the helm of this tale as director, and discovering that he has a flair for family films is a refreshing revelation.

MOVIE: "THE MATRIX: REVOLUTIONS" GRADE: ***

Like the ad slogan for the film says, "All things that have a beginning must have an end", and the Wachowski brothers have created a finale to their wildly popular series that would rival the end of any fireworks display.

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Like the ad slogan for the film says, "All things that have a beginning must have an end", and the Wachowski brothers have created a finale to their wildly popular series that would rival the end of any fireworks display.

MOVIE: "THE MATRIX: REVOLUTIONS" GRADE: ***

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top, 103K mi. \$2900. Call
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1988 DODGE Dynasty

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blue, good shape, run
exc. 72K mi. Must sell.
\$2,500 /bo 781-935-7742

1987 DODGE Lancer

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\$600/BO. 781-938-0277.

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\$3,000/BO. Call 978-664-
6898 for appl. To see it,
ask for Sandy.

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Transfers From S-6

183 MERRIMACK MEADOW LANE U:183 was sold to Kelly Spencer and Michael Fitzgerald by Constance Fitzgerald for \$243,000.

202 MERRIMACK MEADOW LANE U:202 was sold to Adrienne and Daniel Zonderman by Glenn Allen for \$303,800.

1002 NORTH STREET was sold to Judi Farzaroli by Laurie London for \$495,000.

71 OVERLOOK DRIVE was sold to Jean Olsen by Joseph Kitson for \$70,000.

64 PATRICK ROAD U:64 was sold to Kevin Cormier by Kim Andella for \$245,000.

198 PATRICK ROAD U:198 was sold to Susan Bagrowski by Sherry Savet for \$244,900.

30 PINTA DRIVE was sold to Marianne Hulme and Marianne Sheehan by Marianne Hulme and Marianne Sheehan for \$85,000.

1177 SHAWSHEEN STREET was sold to Brother's Dev. Inc. by George Brothers Sr. for \$280,000.

1256 SHAWSHEEN STREET was sold to Eric Bellone by Roger Kendall for \$190,000.

17 STONEBURY WAY U:17 was sold to Arline and Michael Newman by L&P Prop. LLC for \$379,900.

-WAKEFIELD-

Median Price: \$377,300

7 BATEMAN COURT was sold to Aaron James Kelley and Joan Marie Canniff by Banwake LLC for \$459,000.

70 ELM STREET was sold to Gail McElhinney by Paula and Brain Perry for \$399,900

6 GAIL CIRCLE was sold to Gayle Torres by Elizabeth and Daniel Walls for \$365,000.

237 LOWELL STREET was sold to Dean Volungis and Lisa Last by Garth and Katina McKinney for \$355,000.

298 MAIN STREET U:28 was sold to Barbara and Stephen Cox by Joseph Downey for \$225,000.

34 NORTH EMERSON STREET was sold to Daniel Lawn by Linda Furrier and Linda Rossi for \$320,000.

48 NORTH EMERSON STREET was sold to 48 North Emerson by Albert Kenrick for \$2,071,360.

-WILMINGTON-

Median Price: \$345,000

43 ASHWOOD AVENUE was sold to Andrea and Thomas Richards by Brookfield Ests. LLC. for \$569,900.

2 AYOTTE STREET was sold to Maria Davito and Richard Morin by Anne Murray and James Murray Jr. for \$406,000.

6 CLYDE AVENUE was sold to Christine and James Riccio by Kevin McKenna and Martha Bennett for \$252,500.

4 DARTMOUTH AVENUE was sold to Christopher Cook by Jane and Ricahrd Cannizaro for \$355,000.

18 DUNMORE ROAD was sold to Dumore Rt. and John Phillips Tr. by Jere Ralls and Joan McGovern for \$220,000.

119 GROVE AVENUE was sold to Roberta and William Biscan by Carl Amero for \$365,000.

5 LAWRENCE COURT was sold to Michael and Sheila McCarthy for Marilyn Curran for \$335,000.

4 PAGE STREET was sold to Ricahrd and Suzanne Pellegrino by George Nelson for \$608,900.

1203 POULIOT PLACE was sold to Christopher and Shannon Breitenback by Catherine and Glenn Misiph for \$290,000.

RHODES STREET was sold to Margaret Anguioni by Deanna R. Caporale and Deanna T. Caporale for \$79,000.

1502 SANDY LANE was sold to Anthony and Jeanine Rolli by Mark and Michelle Kelley for \$195,880.

15 SOUTH STREET was sold to Donald O'Sullivan by Barbara Calder for \$217,500.

6 TANNER ROAD was sold to Lauren Beals by Lynda and Stephen Curreri for \$8,000.

NO STREET GIVEN was sold to John Tancreto Tr. and Robert Tancreto Tr. by Deer Run. Dev. Inc. for \$312,000.

NO STREET GIVEN was sold to Barbara Caider by Linda Ferguson for \$320,000.

-WINCHESTER-

Median Price: \$662,500

10 CHESTERFORD ROAD E was sold to Louis and Shannon Frate by Fenoglio Family Trust and Warren Covert Jr. for \$390,000.

6 FIELDSTONE DRIVE was sold to David Hallett and Scott Ferrari by Jean and James Thrall for \$1,150,000.

64 HIGHLAND AVENUE U:2 was sold to Marlene Thayer by Elsa and Richard Vanbergen for \$525,000.

15 JEFFERSON ROAD was sold to James and Mary Ellen Marino by George Thisdale, Ex. for Thisdale Phebe Est. for \$1,300,000.

50-52 MIDDLESEX STREET was sold to A. Martin Rozmanith and Susan Rozmanith by Janet MacDonald and William Fucarile for \$430,000.

4 RAVENSCROFT ROAD was sold to Melanie and Peter Eleftherio by Adriana and Marshall Glassner for \$1,110,000.

200 SWANTON STREET U:601 was sold to Rosemary and Vincent Musto by Irene and Eugene Lerman for \$207,500.

18 WAGON WHEEL ROAD was sold to Frederick Roesch and Sara Mattis by Stamatis and Constance Eliadis for \$1,020,000.

666 MAIN STREET U:215 was sold to Elvira and Ronald Ossen by Nancy Falcione for \$329,000.

-WOBURN-

Median Price: \$329,000

4 ADAMS CIRCLE was sold to Lisa Ann Maurer and Jason Maurer by Judith Brangwynne for \$380,000.

201 BEDFORD ROAD U:30 was sold to Diane Ragsdale by Dayla Alvarado for \$322,000.

260 CAMBRIDGE ROAD was sold to Ramachandran Prabakar and Srividya Natarajan by Coventry Bldrs. LLC. for \$445,000.

3 COLUMBUS ROAD was sold to Laurie and Robert Johnstone by Margaret and Ralph Scenci for \$379,900.

20 DAY CIRCLE was sold to Karen Domenici and Raymond Domenici Jr. by Raymond Domenici for \$340,000.

5 GARDEN HEIGHTS AVENUE was sold to Carol Ann Mcelaney by Lillian and Armando Viera for \$380,000.

9 GATTA CIRCLE was sold to Linduale and Mohammed Bezzat by Gail and George Pelletier for \$368,500.

5 HINSTON ROAD was sold to Alan Dussault by Nancy and Craig Zedwick for \$275,000.

13 HOVEY STREET was sold to Jena and Scott Howard by Colin Daughtrey for \$426,000.

201 MAIN STREET U:39 was sold to David Rissinger and Richard Martelli by Jonathan Raynor and Cathy Briggs for \$347,000.

924 MAIN STREET was sold to Francis Biladeau by EBK Rt. and Alan Slawsky for \$151,400.

924 MAIN STREET was sold to Wilson N. Lima by EBK 4 Rt. and Alan Slawsky for \$174,000.

83 MERRIMACK STREET was sold to James Johnson III and Robert Johnson by Elaine O'Neill for \$341,000.

55 MOUNT PLEASANT COURT was sold to Valerie Cogan by Lori and Robert Johnstone for \$358,000.

19 POOLE STREET was sold to Santhi Marward by Josephine Massaro for \$218,000.

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 24, 2003-PAGE S-9

18 RICHARD CIRCLE was sold to Addison Raines and Stacey Arnold by Robert Daly Jr. and Gail Daly for \$315,000.

175 WASHINGTON STREET was sold to Jamie and Russell Loder by Linda and Joseph Marciano for \$325,000.

Vaccaro From S-10

Less than three percent of all realtors hold this designation. Her credits also include the designation (SRES) (Senior Real Estate Specialist) and the CBR (Certified Buyer Representative).

RE/MAX Top Achievers, Inc. attributes Doty's high standard of success to professionalism, integrity and knowledge of the real estate market and current trends.

To contact Doty and her team call 781-944-6060 X229 or just stop by the office at 100 Main St., Reading.

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- Warmth & Charm in Lovely New England Colonial
- 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths
- Newer kitchen and windows
- Convenient location



STONEHAM
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- Top family neighborhood
- 3 bedroom Ranch on a wonderful lot
- Many updates, move in condition
- Great opportunity for 1st time buyer or empty nester



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WOBURN
\$449,900
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SPACE GALORE! This 50' Split entry home has 3 spacious bedrooms, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, new roof, new electric & new retaining wall. Fabulous fenced back yard with mature shrubs & trees. A must see!



WOBURN
\$317,900
781-933-4747

GREAT VALUE! Charming 3 bedrm Colonial in a convenient location. Hardwd flrs, cathedral ceiling kitchen w/oak cabinets. Updates include windows & roof. Garage has been turned into a recreational rm w/cathedral ceilings & new windows & just needs the heat!



WOBURN
\$334,900
781-933-4747

NEWLY PRICED! Downtown location, charming 7 rm, 1.5 bath Colonial has an oversized detached garage w/much period detail including tin ceilings in the living & dining rms, newer windows, refinished hardwood flrs, freshly painted inside.

FEATURED HOMES OF THE NORTH SHORE



WAKEFIELD \$749,900
• Newer 5 BR Victorian Farmhome
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• C/A, Security, Sprinklers
• Large LR & DR
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TEWKSBURY \$639,900
• Meticulous 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial
• Fireplaced Family Room
• Central Air* Hardwood Floors
• 2 car garage
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READING \$549,900
• 8 room, 4 BR, 2.5 bath
• Great Neighborhood
• New Construction
• Open Floor Plan
• First Floor Family Room
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READING \$289,900
• Summit Village
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• In Unit Laundry
• Private Location
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• 2 bedroom Townhome
• Hardwood/tile floors, central air
• Living room has fireplace
• Walk-out Lower Level
• Detached garage



BURLINGTON \$409,900+
• Only 4 units left
• 2 bedrooms + loft area
• Garage
• Gas fireplace
• Hardwood floors & central air



BURLINGTON \$669,900
• New 4 bedroom Colonial in Foxhill
• 1st flr Familyroom with fireplace
• Master bedroom suite with walk-in closet
• 2 car garage
• Granite counters, leather flooring



BURLINGTON \$649,900
• New 4 bedroom hip roof Colonial
• Master bedroom suite
• 1st floor fireplaced Family room
• 2 car garage
• acre lot



BURLINGTON \$424,900
• Young 3 bedroom Split
• Hardwood floors
• Finished Lower Level
• New carpets/interior paint
• Quiet area



BURLINGTON \$499,900
• Young 4 bedroom, 2 bath Garrison
• 1st floor Family room
• Central Air
• 2 car garage
• Large lot, dead end street



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A wonderful family home

Located in a prime commuting location near Reading center (5 miles to the commuter rail), this lovely split-entry home is just waiting for that special family to move in and call it their own. Reading also has a wonderful school system that children of any age would benefit from.

Built in 1962 and situated on a 10,454 square foot lot, this home has been updated by the current owners. Recent improvements include an updated kitchen with newer appliances, Corian countertops and an island for additional storage. The owners have also installed central air condition-

ing, a new heating furnace, a security system, replacement windows and a three-season porch.

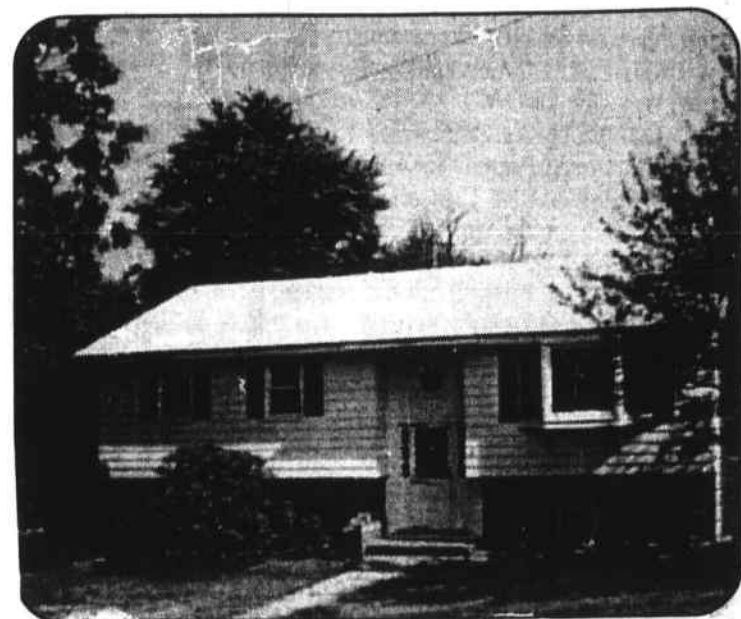
The three bedrooms are generous in size. The master bedroom is 11x13 and boasts a California Closet. The other bedrooms each measure 10x14 and 9x11. This home also features hardwood floors throughout, underneath the carpeting that is presently there.

There is a wonderful backyard that is perfect for family gatherings. It features an inground heated gunite pool with slide. There is also a storage shed that has a cabana/changing area.

Located within a short distance to Reading Center, public transportation, shopping and other amenities, this property is listed with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Stoneham for \$419,900. For further information or to schedule your private showing, please contact Christine Butters at 781-446-8693. For a home movie and additional photos, please visit www.nemoves.com.



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READING - Quality 9 rm, 4 BR, 3 bath Colonial to be built on prime lot in prestigious new subdivision. Circular oak staircase, 2 story fam rm, MBR suite & attached 2 car garage. \$999,900

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Vaccaro team Brokers of Month

RE/MAX Top Achievers, Inc. of Reading announces that Dottie Vaccaro and her team of Linda Spang and Joanne Selak are brokers of the month for November because of their excellence in Listing and Sales. The award is the result of their commitment to real estate and to the high level of service they provide to their customers.

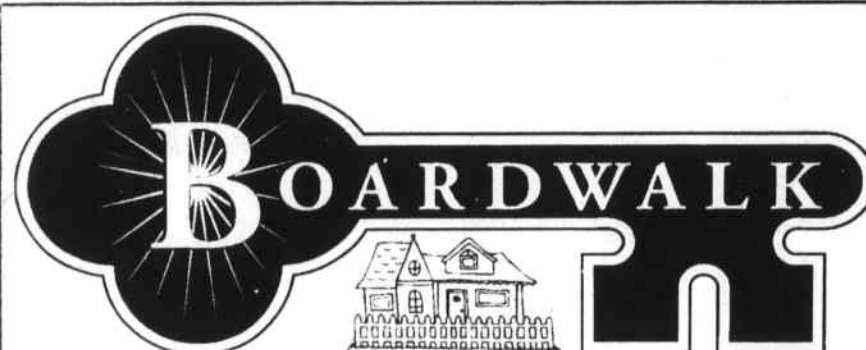
Dottie's skills have made her a consistent award winner throughout her career. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors, the Massachusetts

Association of Realtors, the Bay State Multiple Listing Service, Realtor Service Committee (Angel Flight) and was the 2002 President of the Women's Council of Realtors (WCR).

Ms. Vaccaro holds the GRI (Graduate Realtor Institute) designation for continuing education in all aspects of real estate. Also the CRS (Certified Residential Specialist) designation for completing the required courses offered by Residential Sales Council and demonstrating specific



DOTTYE VACCARO
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Vaccaro to S-9



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READING \$269,900



Located in popular Summit Village, this townhouse offers 4 rooms, 1 bedroom, 1.5 baths, along with a gas fireplace in the living room, central A/C and a garage. *Exclusive!*

WAKEFIELD \$329,900



Classic 1920's fieldstone bungalow. All the character of yesteryear combined w/modern amenities of today. New kit, new bath, updated heating, roof, windows. 6 rms, 2 1/2 bdrms. Hdwd flrs, high ceilings, oversized windows, garage. Impeccable condition. Walk to public trans & shopping. *Exclusive!*

READING \$329,900



6 rm, 3 BR, 2 bath Cape on 1/4 acre 30,492 sq. ft. lot features FP LR, dining room, 1st floor bedroom, 2 good size bedrooms & full bath on 2nd flr. LL playroom & much more.

STONEHAM \$369,900



One owner Ranch w/large kitchen, fireplaced living room, formal dining room, 3 bedroom, hardwood, garage, 3 season porch overlooks private lot on cul-de-sac in prime Bear Hill Country Club neighborhood.

STONEHAM \$449,900



Unique 7 room Cape features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, master suite w/beautiful jacuzzi, open floor plan, cozy fireplaced living room and more! *Exclusive!*

READING \$449,900



Beautifully remodeled Cape style home offers 4 1/2 bedrooms, 9 rooms, 2 full baths, lots of cathedral woodwork. *Exclusive!*

READING \$479,900



4 bedroom Colonial in impeccable condition, new kitchen, electric and roof, 3 updated baths, hardwood floors, fireplaced living room, formal dining room, finished lower level for entertaining, sunroom, garage, large private lot in convenient location.

STONEHAM \$509,900



Move right into this winter ready home featuring fpl LR & FR, new heating sys, windows, roof & siding, HW flring thru-out, updated kitchen, fully finished walk out LL w/full bath, awning covered deck overlooks perfectly landscaped yard w/sep metered sprinkler system, CA & many other updates. *Exclusive.*

WAKEFIELD \$539,900



Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom Colonial features incredible cherry kitchen/dining area with lovely granite countertops, 2 full baths, fireplaced living room, dining room & office out of Better Homes & Garden, 24,000+ lot of land on West Side! *Exclusive*

WAKEFIELD \$619,900



Showcase of Homes! Totally renovated 4 BR, 1.5 bath Victorian. Charm of yesteryear w/all modern touches of today. HW floors thru-out master suite w/cathedral ceiling, enormous FP LR w/large bay window and much more. *Exclusive!*

From Our Family to Yours,
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

"A special thanks to all our friends, customers & clients for making 2003 one of our best years since we began in 1979." Jim & Dave